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yourmaidstone

THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

JOB...

Helping you make
the right choice

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ELECTION 2010

Who will be
your next MP?

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SPORT...

Round-up of all
the local action

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NOT GUILTY PLEAS IN HIT-AND-RUN MURDER

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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ON A ROLL: Watch Prime Minister Gordon Brown talking to workers at Aylesford Newsprint

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ISSN 1753-1211



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■ BY ANNA WHITE

CLOSE relatives of a father-of-five killed in a hit-and-run have pleaded not guilty for their part in his murder.

Bill Treeby, 49, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on April 9 where he denied murdering his brother Jack Treeby.

The accused's wife Charity, 50, and their sons Bill (Jnr), 29, and George, 22, were alongside him in the dock.

They also deny murder.

All four, of Queen Street, Paddock Wood, also denied attempting to murder Gary Treeby, Jack and Bill's brother, and Jack's young son – Jack (Jnr) – and conspiring to kill another brother, John Treeby.

The charges relate to events which took place on Sunday, December, 27, of last year, in Quarry Road, Tovil, in Maidstone.

At 7pm, Jack Treeby, 43, from Rainham, was ploughed down by a Range Rover and crushed beneath its wheels. He died at the scene.

His son was allegedly clipped by the vehicle and treated for minor injuries.

Gary Treeby suffered life-threatening injuries during the incident, which were exacerbated by gunshot wounds, but has now recovered.

A further count of conspiracy to murder John Treeby was also put to the four defendants.

They are all accused of plotting his death between December 1 and 31 of last year.

Judge Andrew Patience QC warned other family members, who sat in the public gallery to listen to their relatives' pleas, to refrain from any outbursts during the hearing or he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



IT'S STRICTLY LUXURIOUS

Strictly Come Dancing stars James and Ola Jordan were first to test out the luxury bedrooms at a newly refurbished hotel.

The husband and wife team, who live in Kings Hill, were the guests of honour at the grand opening of 40 upgraded rooms at Oakwood House, Maidstone. Oakwood House, which is owned by Kent County Council, is used as a venue for weddings, events, conferences and now boasts stylish bedrooms.

KCC director of property Peter Binnie said: "Oakwood House is a fine place to stay or do business. The new bedroom suite is an excellent addition to the facilities available."

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your lifestyle
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Fergie's killer aide misses court date

■ BY ANNA WHITE

OFFICIALS were left baffled when convicted murderer Jane Andrews failed to show up in court to explain her escape from prison.

Andrews, 42, a former royal aide to Sarah Ferguson, was due to appear at Maidstone Magistrates Court on Friday, last week, to face the consequences after absconding from East Sutton Park Prison.

But court workers were at a loss to explain why she had failed to attend, even though she is currently detained in prison, believed to be Cookham Wood, near Rochester.

Andrews sparked a nationwide search in November, last year, when she went missing from the women's open prison, where she was serving a life sentence for murdering boyfriend Tom Cressman.

She was noticed missing during an 8pm roll call. Police finally traced her, after three days on the run, to the Premier Inn at the M20 services near junction eight.

Andrews had checked in to the hotel just hours before her arrest with her elderly mother and father and her brother.

Her parents had travelled by taxi from their home in Grimsby, to meet their fugitive daughter.

Cabbie Darren Auckland, 40, was asked to stop outside a graveyard at 12.30am, on Wednesday, November 24, and was left "stunned" when the mud-caked former royal dresser stepped out of the bushes.



ABSENT: Murderer Jane Andrews

The family asked Auckland to drive them north back to Grimsby, but he refused and instead dropped them off at the hotel at 2am, just six miles from the prison.

Police were tipped off about Andrews' whereabouts by a friend of the taxi driver.

The inmate, who was an aide to the Duchess of York for nine years, was jailed in 2001 for bludgeoning and stabbing her boyfriend to death after he refused to marry her.

Andrews would have been eligible for parole in February, 2012, after her minimum sentence was reduced from 15 to 12 years.

It is likely her latest offence will result in an extended sentence.

A police spokeswoman said the reason for Andrews' non-appearance last week has not been disclosed by the prison service.

The case at Maidstone Magistrates Court has been adjourned until Tuesday, when it is hoped Andrews will appear.

Partner agencies are open to suggestions

BOSSES of the town's partner agencies will meet next week to consider ideas to improve Maidstone.

Representatives from the borough council, Kent County Council, police and other organisations will discuss suggestions submitted by residents.

It is essential that all the agencies are at the meeting, on Monday, as the ideas require a change to the law or transfer of responsibility.

The public are welcome to attend and hear about the proposed improvements to services and ongoing problems, such as buses and litter.

The meeting is due to start at 5pm in Maidstone Gateway, King Street.

Widdecombe target of anti-Lords protest

CAMPAIGNERS took to the streets to protest against the possibility of retiring MP Ann Widdecombe being elevated to the House of Lords.

On Friday, members of the Power 2010 group dressed as Lords in Maidstone town centre and asked shoppers to sign a petition demanding no more invitations to join the unelected House of Lords.

A day of action was held nationwide in constituencies where the retiring MP is likely to be invited to adopt the honour, including Maidstone and Weald's Ms Widdecombe.

Protesters want the three main party leaders to introduce a fully elected second chamber in the next Parliament and not appoint any more Peers.

Hazlitt calls the tune in search for singers

MUSICAL directors are on the hunt for singers to join a new choir.

Bosses at the Hazlitt Arts Centre want to find skilled vocalists – or even people who just like signing in the shower – for the choir when it launches this autumn.

Sessions will be held at the centre in Earl Street, Maidstone, every Wednesday evening and there will be an experienced tutor on hand to help with tricky numbers.

Hopefuls need to be over 18 years old. For more details, email natalieprice@maidstone.gov.uk.

Relatives deny Treeby murder charges

FROM FRONT PAGE
 would be "forced to deal" with them "there and then".

It is not known if Karen Treeby, wife of Jack (Snr), was present.

Speaking shortly after her husband's death, Mrs Treeby said: "He did not deserve what happened to him. I feel like my heart as been ripped open."

"We have been robbed of a wonderful, caring man who will live in our hearts for ever."

Jack Treeby was laid to rest after an extravagant funeral in Bredhurst on February 8.

His gold-plated coffin was taken to St Peter's Church by horse-drawn carriage and was followed by a procession of eight black limousines and seven flat-bed lorries, each carrying floral tributes thought to be worth

thousands of pounds. The flower arrangements included a bench press, tractor, forklift truck, a train and a large photo of Mr Treeby with the words 'My Brother Jack'.

The family members accused of his death have been remanded in custody until September 27, when they will face a four-week trial. They all face the following charges:

- The murder of Jack Treeby.
- The attempted murder of Gary Treeby.
- Causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Gary Treeby.
- The attempted murder of Jack Treeby (Jnr).
- Attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm on Jack Treeby (Jnr).
- Conspiracy to murder John Treeby between December 1 and 31.



VICTIM: Jack Treeby died in hit and run

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MAIDSTONE & THE WEALD**HELEN GRANT****Conservative**

"If I am elected I will strive to achieve the changes we need with conviction, drive and determination and I will serve the constituents with integrity, honesty and sincerity."

**RAV SEERUTHUN****Labour**

"I want to be an MP as I care passionately about the democratic process. I want to represent Maidstone and the Weald as someone who has made by career here."

**STUART JEFFERY****Green**

"A Green MP would provide Maidstone with an MP who would remain in-touch with real people, someone who would campaign for jobs, rights, equality and the environment."

**GARETH KENDALL****UKIP**

"I believe a UKIP MP for Maidstone will gain greater national attention and without the need to follow a government whip. My focus would be to speak for Maidstone's interests and nothing else."

**PETER CARROLL****Liberal Democrat**

"I hope that people have seen me fight for issues large and small – from major campaigns to issues of great significance to individuals. I feel I could do so much more as the MP."

**TIM VALENTINE****Green Party**

"As a Green MP I would campaign to create one million new jobs, building affordable homes, better public transport and providing fuel security through investment in efficiency and renewable energy."

**ASHOK REHAL****Labour**

"I know what makes a difference and what impact policies have on the lives of ordinary people. I want to make a difference and make everyone believe their view counts as much as the next persons."

**SARAH LARKINS****UKIP**

"I feel I can contribute to British politics and help restore the public's trust in MPs again by only claiming basic expenses as we, the public, do in the real world."

**HUGH ROBERTSON****Conservative**

"It is for others to judge whether I have been a success but I try to make time for everyone. I reply personally to every letter and email sent by my constituents and I try to support the many good causes in the constituency."

**DAVID NACHI****Liberal Democrat**

"The Liberal Democrats clearly have the best policies for pensioners, for students, and for families. Students should not be starting their working life with a huge burden of debt and people should not be working just to pay more tax to government."

HAIRY KNORM
Monster Raving Loony Party

"If elected I would make smaller classes by using smaller desks and I would also introduce a smile clinic at hospitals because you always feel better with a smile on your face."

Name calling begins as parties come out in force for your vote

■ BY ANNA WHITE

ELECTION 2010

ELECTION campaigns are well underway in Maidstone and the Weald – but are candidates doing enough to win your vote?

Since the General Election was announced last Tuesday, the town centre has been taken over by promotion stalls and top ministers have visited the borough.

Liberal Democrat candidate Peter Carroll officially launched his campaign at the top of Fremlin Walk last Wednesday – pitching up directly opposite a patch where volunteers for Conservative Helen Grant had also set up base.

The close proximity between the two parties led to some frosty looks and outbursts from supporters – with one Tory voter voicing his dislike for Mr Carroll and labelling his campaign as a "waste of time".

Another Tory supporter, Suzie Brooks, from Sutton Valence, said: "I have always voted Conservative and will continue to vote Conservative."

Mr Carroll said day one of his campaign for parliament had been a success.

"I think it has gone very well. It's good to get out here and meet the people to tell them what our policies are face-to-face and listen to what they want," he said.

Matthew Kerr, from Upper Fant, said: "I am swaying towards Peter Carroll as he did help campaign for



START: Gordon Brown visited Aylesford Newsprint just hours after announcing the election date speed bumps in our area and seems to have the right approach.

"I haven't really decided who to vote for yet, but the expenses scandal hasn't put me off voting – let's face it all politicians are crooks."

The Labour candidate and keen hockey player, Dr Rav Seeruthun, has also been busy securing the support of his team-mates when he launched his campaign on the pitch on Saturday.

Positive

He said: "Local sport helps communities pull together and it mixes people from many different backgrounds together. I thought this would be a fun way to start the campaign as I will be running a positive campaign based on what I can offer Maidstone and the Weald."

Dr Seeruthun was given an extra boost for his campaign when the Prime Minister visited Aylesford

Newsprint just hours after he declared the Queen had agreed to dissolve Parliament. Gordon Brown, his wife Sarah and Jonathon Shaw, the Labour MP for Aylesford and Chatham, met with the site's staff and bosses during a tour of Medway.

Mrs Grant, who has just signed up for the London Marathon in aid of Maidstone-based charity Tomorrow's People, was also due to have a special visit yesterday from Tory shadow defence secretary Liam Fox MP.

Mr Fox was expected to be in the town at 3pm to meet staff at the Royal British Legion Village in Aylesford.

To vote you must register at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

During the upcoming weeks to voting day this paper will run special interviews with the hopefuls and keep you up-to-date with the election. You can also voice your opinion at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk or write to us.

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Little reminder of importance of liver research

■ BY ANNA WHITE

PARENTS of a baby diagnosed with a life-threatening disease celebrated a day they feared they would never see – their son's second birthday.

Chris and Alice Yelf, from Maidstone, had no idea their son Bertie had biliary atresia – a rare liver disease which causes the organ's bile ducts to become blocked – until he was diagnosed at eight-weeks old.

The worried parents rushed their newborn baby to hospital after his jaundice, which he was born with, persisted and they were told Bertie would need surgery to save him from the life-threatening illness.

Bertie recovered well and on Saturday, April 10 he turned two years old – much to his parents' delight.

Mr Relf said: "It was lucky that Bertie's liver disease was caught when it was, as the surgery he had is best performed as early as possible."

"He recovered quickly and, with daily medication and regular hospital visits, he is just a joy."

"He is bumbling all over the place and is really talkative. We celebrated his birthday with family and friends."

Throughout the agonising wait for Bertie to recover in hospital, an officer from the Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) visited the family and offered them advice and comfort.

Mrs Relf said: "A CLDF families officer visited us in hospital. She was excellent and so reassuring, giving us vital information on Bertie's disease, his operation, transplantation and what help is available."

"This came on a day we were terrified about coping – CLDF is a true lifeline to families like ours."

The husband and wife team say they are truly grateful to the foundation and hope their story will encourage others to help continue research.

Catherine Arkley, chief executive of CLDF, added: "Whilst CLDF-funded research means we know more about Bertie's liver condition than ever before, we have only touched the surface."

"There is still so much to do. Research is expensive and we really need every bit of



SURVIVOR: Bertie Yelf who was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness celebrated his second birthday

help and support that the public can give, particularly in these difficult times.

"It's vital that childhood liver disease is identified and treated as early as possible as this really can save lives."

"I urge parents, parents to be and community healthcare professionals to be alert to the signs and symptoms to look for, which are covered in CLDF's Yellow Alert campaign."

The husband and wife, who are now expecting another baby, have been told by doctors their son will likely need a transplant in the future.

Mrs Yelf added: "It will be fantastic for Bertie to have someone to grow up with and we aren't worried about our next child having a liver disease."

"I believe everything we have been through already has made us prepared for whatever comes our way."

For more information on CLDF's Yellow Alert campaign, visit www.childliverdisease.org/education/yellowalert.

RBLI celebrates new chief executive

THE Royal British Legion Industries has appointed former serviceman Steve Sherry as its new chief executive.

Mr Sherry OBE joins the Aylesford-based charity after a long career in the army, where his last post was defence advisor and senior British military representative in Pakistan.

In his new role, Mr Sherry will be responsible for identifying, developing and securing assistance and funding for both new and existing activities to support ex-servicemen and disabled residents.

The RBLI also offers employment opportunities and support to the families of former soldiers and vulnerable people.



NEW ROLE: Steve Sherry with wife Monika

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Anti-social crackdown

A POLICE operation to free villages of anti-social behaviour has proved a great success in its first location.

Officers from Maidstone's Neighbourhood Task Team have spent the past few weeks in Coxheath tackling problems with crime.

The team has made several arrests in the area for offences such as illegal drug taking, drink driving and public order offences outside shops on Heath Road.

From speaking to residents, officers discovered the main issue was large groups of youths meeting outside the shops, so it is hoped the recent action will help reduce the problem. The team also seized two vehicles with no insurance during the operation and handed out a number of street cautions for cannabis possession.

Following the success in Coxheath, officers now plan to move to another village with similar problems.

Antique pot theft appeal

AN appeal has been launched for the return of an antique pot to its owners.

The pot, which housed a yew tree, was stolen from the front doorstep of a house in Boormans Mews, Wateringbury.

The renaissance-style garden ornament, which is one of a pair that stood outside the home, was taken between 8pm on Thursday, April 1 and 8am the following morning.

It is believed the crime could have been carried out by three men, all wearing hooded tops, who were seen in the area with an old white transit van.

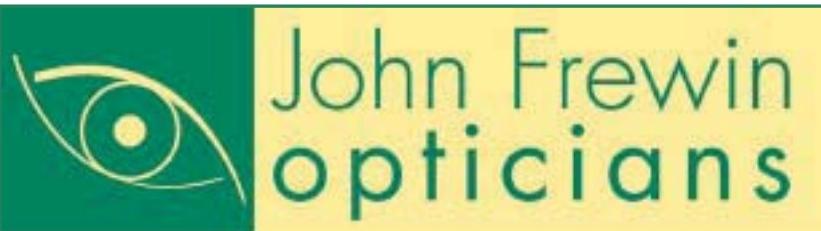
A cultural celebration

CULTURAL acts and groups are invited to showcase their talents and creations to thousands of visitors at an annual celebration.

The invitation is open to everyone as Maidstone council wants to find stall holders, volunteers and community groups to be involved in the town's Mela.

The event, which is held on Saturday, September 11 and Sunday 12, is a celebration of diversity and culture.

If you would like to take part, email alastairbarker@maidstone.gov.uk or call 01622 602508.



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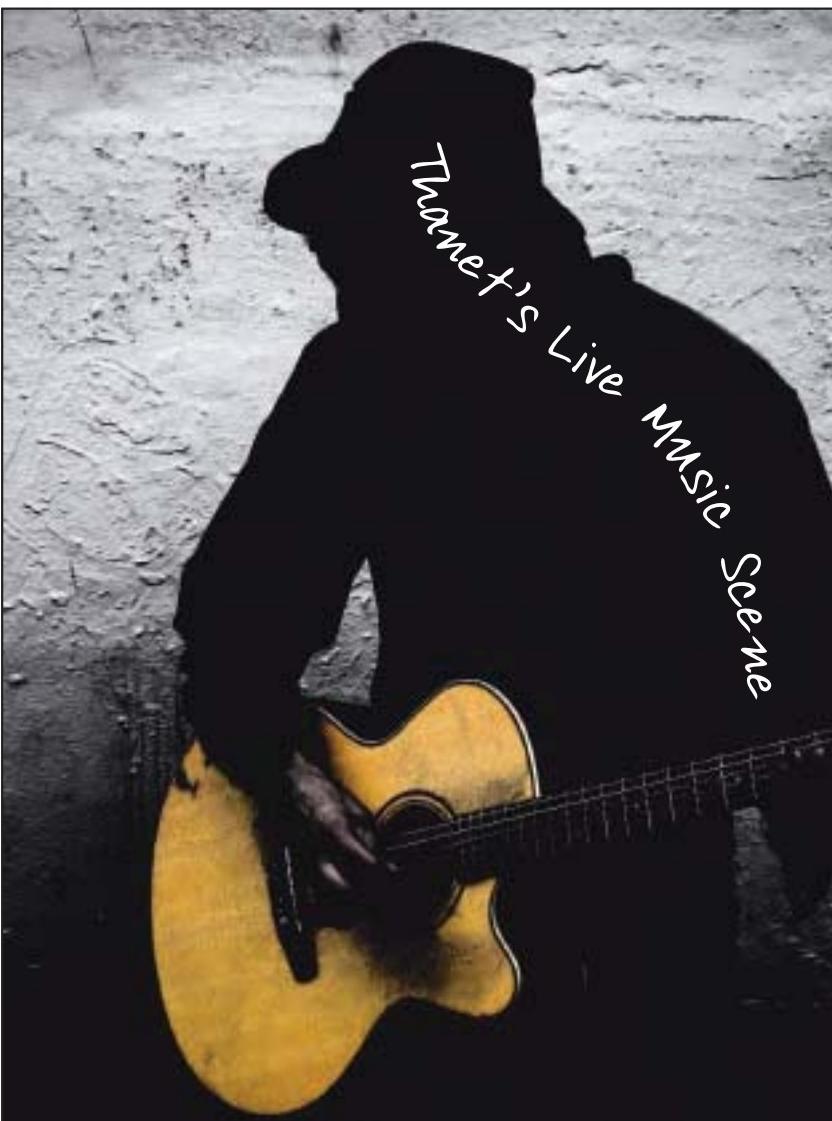
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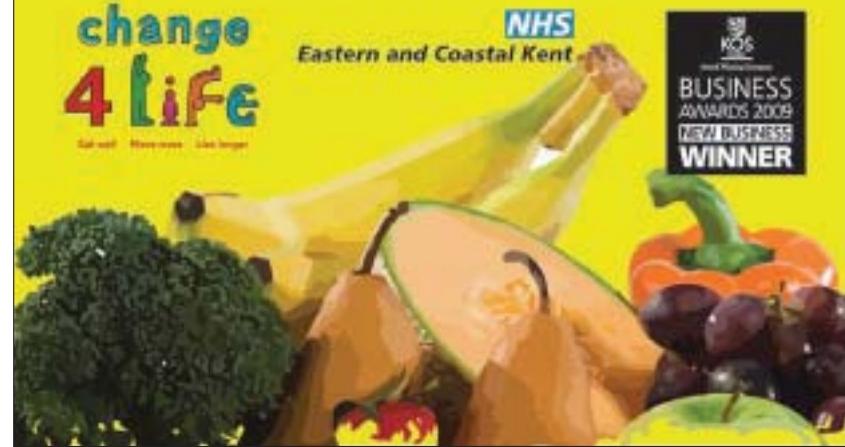
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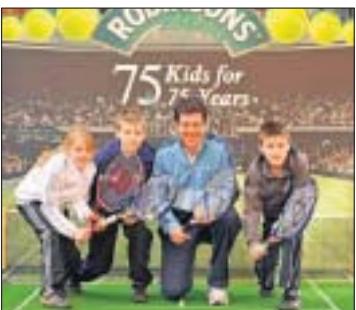
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ACE: Henman with youngsters in the town centre

Tim searches for young tennis aces

BRITISH tennis legend Tim Henman was in Maidstone town centre last week on the lookout for new sporting talent.

The former UK number one was in Earl Street on Tuesday, April 6, to launch his search for 75 tennis stars of the future.

The initiative to find the country's hidden sport stars marks the 75-year sponsorship partnership between Wimbledon and Robinsons soft drinks company.

Henman said: "Robinsons has been a part of Wimbledon as far back as I can remember, so I am delighted to be involved in its 75th year celebration and to help Robinsons encourage the next generation of players and rising tennis stars."

To celebrate the landmark anniversary, the competition team will scour the UK to find the 75 lucky youngsters who will win a two-day training camp at Wimbledon with Henman and head Wimbledon coach, Dan Bloxham.

Youngsters can enter their regional trial by registering online at www.robinsonsoftdrinks.com/wimbledon.

Family grieve for doting dad Darren after bike smash

'He'd never let you down and was always helping'

■ BY ANNA WHITE

THE devastated wife of a loving father-of-three killed in a motorbike crash has paid tribute to his "generous spirit".

Kim Saunders said the death of her beloved husband, Darren, has ripped her life apart and has left a permanent void in the family.

The 36-year-old died from injuries he sustained when his motorbike crashed into a bus stop on Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, on Saturday, March 27.

He leaves behind his wife, their three children – 14-year-old Jack, Ellie, ten, and Rowson, 21-months old – and his mother and father, Sally and Derek.

Mrs Saunders said: "Our whole world has been ripped apart. None of us can imagine life without him. We are totally devastated to lose Darren."

"He had the best qualities of everyone rolled into one and now he's gone, we have a void in our lives which will never be filled."

"However much time I would have had with Darren, it would never have been enough."

Although Mr Saunders had a strong passion for life and bikes, his wife said his family was the

most important thing to him and that they are all struggling to come to terms with their tragic loss.

She added: "I couldn't have asked for a better father for the kids – he was always playing with them, whether it was tractor rides for Ellie or riding dirt bikes with Jack, he would do anything for them, he had so much patience."

"Nothing was ever too much trouble for Darren. He was always helping everyone."

"He'd never let you down and was always there to cheer you up with a constant smile."

Maidstone-born Mr Saunders met his future wife on a blind date, set up by friends. They hit it off instantly and married in April 2006.

Speaking of her late husband, Mrs Saunders said: "His smile is what I remember most – it's the first and last thing I see when I close my eyes."

"He was the best father and had the most caring and generous spirit."

Mr Saunders' father agreed with his daughter-in-law, saying: "I will always remember him for ever young. My little boy with his cheeky smile."

The motorbike enthusiast will also be sorely



SORELY MISSED: Police are still appealing for witnesses to motorcycling accident that killed Darren Saunders

missed among his closest friends.

His best friend, Patrick, said: "He was so special to so many people and had a personality as big as his size, making everyone feel special."

"He always had a funny story to tell and would never be able to finish before bursting into laughter himself."

"Darren drew people in with his warm personality, taking people on face value and concentrating on the person inside."

The father-of-three's funeral was held at Harrietham Church on Friday.

Police continue to investigate the fatal crash and officers returned to the scene, outside the Cherry Tree Pub, on Saturday, April 4, in hope of finding more witnesses – but with no success.

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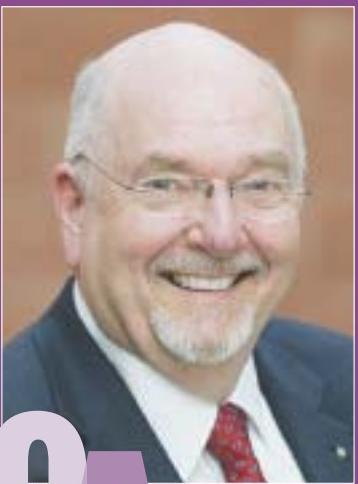
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QUESTION & ANSWER

CLIVE LAWRENCE



Q & A

The PR Officer for the Federation of Small Businesses and former BBC journalist talks to Jill Hurst about how he got the job and how the FSB has helped small businesses throughout Kent to survive the recession

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Q And the most challenging?

A Finding a way around those people who have their minds made up and are resistant to change.

Q What do members get?

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- Tax advice from Inland Revenue trained specialists
- Tax protection against in-depth tax investigations for all FSB member's businesses
- Information on employment law, health & safety, tax and commercial law through the FSB members-only website
- Legal documents downloadable in MS Word which can be styled to your business available through the same website
- Insurance cover for legal defence and an employment disputes service with payment of statutory awards

Q How do you qualify to join FSB?

A You have to be self-employed or run a small business of fewer than 250 people. In reality, 99 per cent of members employ 20 or fewer and 95 per cent employ up to 10 people.

Q Do you see things picking up after the recession?

A FSB Kent Business Barometer is run every six months, with the next due in two months' time.

Last November the economic climate appeared to have bottomed out and the decline of the previous three years had halted. The fact is that small businesses form the bedrock of the whole economy of the country. Just imagine if each business owner created just one job each. Overnight, Britain's unemployment figures would disappear!

Q What advice would you give to someone thinking of starting a business?

A Do your research and talk to as many people in business as you can to collect their tips. But remember only to talk to people who have succeeded – why get advice from people who have a poor track record?

Q Anything you'd like to add?

A Always make time for yourself and the family. In the end, they are the first priority!

To find out more about joining the Federation of Small Businesses, log on to www.fsb.org.uk.
or email membership@fsb.org.uk

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Civil rights group warn police over kept images

■ BY MARIKE COX

KENT Police could face a flood of High Court cases after being accused of breaking privacy laws by storing photographs of innocent motorists.

Campaigners from the civil rights group Liberty have vowed to support anyone who wants to take legal action against the force after a report by the National Policing Improvement Agency revealed that pictures taken using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology – which are stored for up to two years – sometimes catch passengers' faces.

The Liberty threat could spell particular trouble for Kent which has so far invested £5.3 million into the system and claims to be one of the leading constabularies in the UK for using ANPR.

The technology, launched nationally in 2006, is used to detect criminal activity, ranging from motorists with no insurance to stolen cars.

In Kent it records the movements of one million cars a day using 200 hidden cameras in undisclosed locations.

A Liberty spokeswoman said police originally said the system would be used only to identify unlicensed and uninsured drivers.

"Now we see it being used for a myriad of purposes without any public debate," she added.

Motorists without tax, MOT or insurance are most at risk of being stopped on the road due to the system being linked up to the national DVLA database, but vehicles used in criminal activity have also been detected.

As well as the fixed cameras, a team of dedicated mobile ANPR officers travel around the county stopping vehicles that have been flagged up.

But drivers' groups have also criticised the



BIG BROTHER: Liberty will support anyone who wants to take legal action against the force over use of images system, claiming everyone is being treated as a potential criminal.

Ian Taylor, Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers, said although motorists understand the reasons behind ANPR, keeping details of innocent drivers for so long is unnecessary.

"We know it helps target criminals, we have no argument with that, but why does the system need to look at everyone and then keep their details, often of their faces, for such a long time?" he said.

"Police are treating everyone as a potential criminal, being tagged and tracked wherever they go."

Criticised

"In the past, officers stopped people who had done something wrong, but now everyone is treated as though they are criminals."

"We have concerns about this information and control. How long before we are controlled on when or where we travel?"

This is not the first time Kent Police has come under fire for its use of ANPR.

Last year it emerged that officers had used the technology to monitor protesters during the infamous Climate Camp rally at Kingsnorth in 2008, and that law-abiding citizens were later pulled over for no other



reason than that they had attended a demonstration.

Chief Insp Simon Black, head of ANPR at Kent Police, said it was unlikely images of innocent people would ever be viewed.

He said: "Cameras read the number plates on vehicles and do on occasions capture an image of the front seat passengers, but the primary objective of ANPR is to capture the make, model and colour of the vehicle to provide assistance in bringing offenders to justice."

"We retain the information – as required by the Data Information Commissioner in his ruling in January this year – for two years."

"The ANPR system reads about one million number plates a day, but if the vehicles are insured, taxed and have not been used in relation to a criminal offence then it is unlikely the images will ever be viewed."

"Therefore a person's privacy is not compromised."

Last week Kent Police was also criticised for handing out Speedwatch equipment to members of the public.

The force was accused of using 'Big Brother' techniques, allowing residents to monitor the speed of drivers in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay.



ROW: Union claims that children could criticise lessons

Pupils used 'secret mobiles' to grade teachers' lessons

A SCHOOL gave pupils mobile telephones so they could send criticism of their teachers to more senior members of staff, claims a concerned union member.

Speaking at the annual Association of Teachers and Lecturers conference, teacher John Rivers revealed that children as young as 11 had used the technology to give instant ratings on their teachers' abilities to senior staff, and even during lessons.

He said that about 20 youngsters at the unnamed secondary school in Kent were given the phones during what was called a "quality assurance" week.

Mr Rivers, who teaches information and communication technology (ICT) at a different school in the county, said he was contacted for advice by colleagues at the school in question.

He said: "I have no problem generally in asking pupils how they felt about my lesson. It's just I believe there should be clear guidance about how those observations should be conducted and reported."

Mr Rivers said the scheme was part of a drive spearheaded by the Government to make teaching staff more accountable for their style of running a classroom.

The conference was told of similar examples of schoolchildren apparently getting too much power when it comes to the content of lessons, behaviour policies and even the hiring and firing of staff. One example of excessive pupil power was when they interviewed a man and two women teachers for a job, and then picked the one they thought was the most attractive.

Plus a teacher seeking promotion was rejected for not singing the Michael Jackson hit Bad during an interview.

Speaking to reporters after the conference had finished, Mr Rivers said teachers at the Kent school were concerned they had not been forewarned or consulted on the scheme.

He said: "I understand it just happened. Staff were not aware of how it worked and there was a lack of transparency. I suppose staff must feel it's a bit threatening if it's not transparent."

A spokesman for the Department for Children, Schools and Families said it believed pupils should play an active role in their own learning and in the development of their schools. However, both KCC and Medway Council said it was unaware of mobile phones being used in any of its schools to critique teaching staff.

Homework giving parents' headache

PARENTS asked to help with school homework are feeling the pressure as they struggle to support their child's learning, a new report has revealed.

Almost 80 per cent in the South East admitted to not understanding the curriculum, with 50 per cent of youngsters confessing to feeling confused when their parents try to help.

The report I'm stuck – can you help me? – commissioned by the Government agency Becta aims to provide parents in Kent with information to show them how to support their children.

Schools are also being encouraged to set up websites and learning platforms to equip confused parents with the resources they need to help with homework.

Neil McLean, executive director of Becta, said using technology in this way is extremely beneficial to a child's learning.

"Schools benefit from parents' involvement and if children feel they are getting the right support from the schools and families, this has a positive effect on their grades," he said.

The report revealed 81 per cent of parents in the region are asked for help with homework by their children at least once a week. And one in ten parents confessed they felt unable to support their child, which was having a profound emotional effect.

Becta is pushing for schools to get involved in its Next Generation Learning programme, which urges education officials to use technology to link parents with their child's curriculum.

There are already a number of schools in Kent leading the way using ICT to improve links between work at school and at home.

For more information go to www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

Kent university scientist involved in vital breakthrough with battle against cancer

SLOWLY but surely scientists are edging towards a cure for cancer – and now a Kent medical research team has revealed a new breakthrough in the long battle.

Dr Mark Howard's research at the University of Kent's School of Biosciences has led to the development of a new technique that will deliver cancer treatments direct to certain tumours, and he has now patented the discovery.

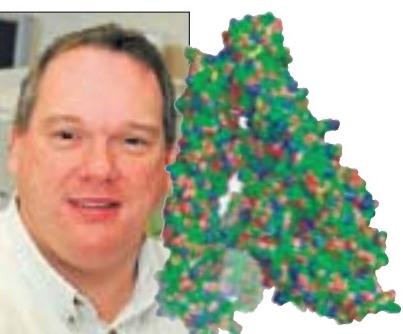
It is primarily aimed at targeting pancreatic cancer – which is currently very difficult to treat – and involves cancer-targeting peptides binding to a complex protein found in high levels on many tumour cells, but absent in most normal tissues.

By seeking out this protein and binding to it the peptides can deliver cancer treatments directly to the site with increased precision and reduced side effects.

And the treatment is so effective it is not going to be years before it's used.

In fact, the American company Aura Biosciences Inc has already licensed the technique from Cancer Research Technology.

Dr Howard's role in this development involved identifying the shape of the peptides.



CURE: Dr Howard identified the peptides' shape (above)

He said: "These peptides have a particular three-dimensional shape enabling them to specifically target this tumour-associated protein in a more effective way than ever observed before."

"We were able to model different peptide shapes and see a clear link between shape and effectiveness."

Dr Howard, a member of the school's

Protein Science Research Group, added that the technology has potential within tumour imaging and therapy for efficient identification and eradication of cancers.

The senior lecturer joined the School of Biosciences in 2001 and his research interests include the structural and dynamic characterisation of bio-chemically relevant molecules, enhanced structural stability in proteins and peptides, as well as advancing nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Collateral damage when treating cancer cells has long been a major problem.

But Dr Phil L'Huillier, director of business management at CRT, said: "These peptides have the potential to seek out and destroy cancer cells, leaving the surrounding areas unharmed."

"We believe this technology could have particular strengths in delivering treatments for cancers that have limited treatment options, such as pancreatic and head and neck cancer."

"Crucially this targeted treatment could also reduce the side effects that are commonly associated with standard therapies."

"We look forward to the results of this programme with great interest."

yourmaidstoneschools



Pupils to show off recycled designs

YOUNG fashionistas are to strut along a catwalk to show off some of the high street's latest collections.

The budding designers and models are students at New Line Learning Academies, in Linton and Loose.

The two academies are to stage the fashion show at the Loose site on Monday, May 10, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Students and staff take to the catwalk wearing outfits donated by stores in the town centre.

There will also be an appearance from Maidstone Town Centre Management's Bag Lady wearing a dress made from rubbish collected from the streets. She has inspired the youngsters to create their own recycled outfits for the show, which is hosted by a surprise celebrity.

Tickets are on sale now at the receptions in the academies and cost £5 for adults and £3 for children.

For details call 07894423075 or email moira.mitchell@newlinelearning.com.

Students open The Door on career in broadcasting

■ BY ANNA WHITE

MEDIA students proved to be in the right place at the right time when studio bosses invited them to work on a new celebrity game show.

The lucky pupils on the University of the Creative Arts' new Foundation Broadcast Media course jumped at the chance to help with ITV's recent programme The Door.

The youngsters are based at Maidstone Studios, in Vinters Park, where the prime-time show is filmed with presenters Chris Tarrant and Amanda Holden.

UCA's senior lecturer Simon Welsford said: "I received a phone call from the head of Maidstone Studios asking if any of our students would like to help out on The Door which was being filmed down the hall.

"Of course they jumped at the chance to take part and immediately leaped into six tiring days of filming."

"It was fantastic that just three weeks into the first semester of the new Foundation Broadcast Media course our students are gaining work experience on a high-profile show.

"I knew they would get the chance to work on a series at some point, but I didn't expect it to be so soon."

"With more series coming into the studios in the next few weeks and months, it will be a very exciting time for the students."

The Door, which was broadcast this month, was a two-part special for ITV1 where six celebrities put their bravery to the test and



CHALLENGES: Presenters Amanda Holden and Chris Tarrant with the celebrities who took part in The Door

took on various challenges, which were designed to confuse and scare them.

probably the biggest studio I have ever worked in – it is just extraordinary."

His co-host Ms Holden, who is famous for her judging role on Britain's Got Talent, said: "The Door is a huge production with massive movie-style sets that look amazing."

UCA students are based at the studios to benefit from learning in a professional broadcast environment with the chance to get hands-on experience on television programmes.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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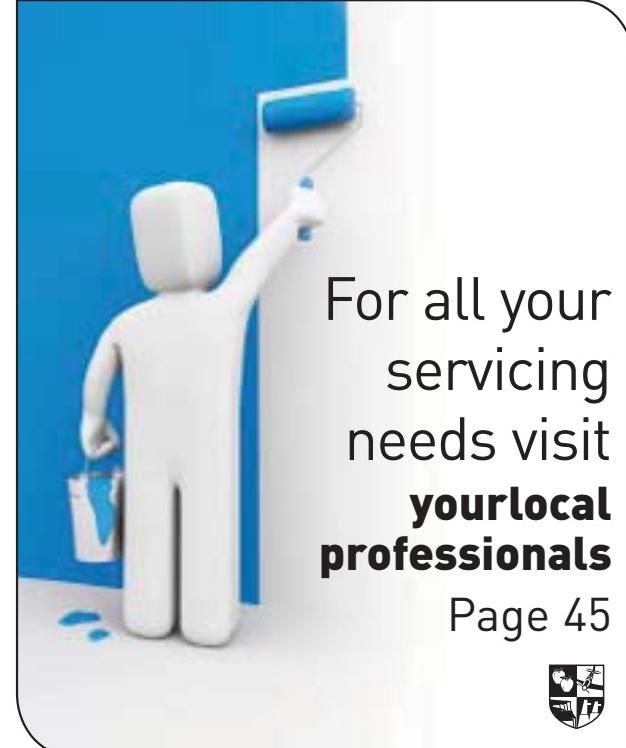
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yourletters

YOUR LETTERS



TOP MAN: Peter Carroll with Joanna Lumley

Peter's best man to represent you

As the opinion polls show, the difficulty for the public is selecting the party that will best serve the country, when all their intentions seem to be good and, to the naked eye, fairly similar.

My firm belief is to vote for the individual. I think that it is our duty to study the case history of each candidate in our area and decide which person will fight hardest for the community.

For this reason I want to send my strongest support for Peter Carroll in the forthcoming campaign, and here is why: I have known him for two years and he is the toughest, straightest, most honourable and unflagging man I have ever met.

He never lies, he is generous to a fault – but keeps it a secret – he will follow a project until it is accomplished, and has a startling success rate in achieving his goals. He is kind and courteous, and has no airs.

He works like a demon at the speed of light. Nothing daunts him. He is accessible and friendly. He loves what he does, and would be a formidable MP for his constituents. I commend him to voters of all persuasions. In my opinion he is the man for Maidstone.

Give him your vote: he won't let you down.

Joanna Lumley,
by email



Life experience vital to achieve our goals

We need real change to create a stable economy, restore jobs, unshackle our businesses, strengthen families, and form a

yourblogger

Why the General Election should be the most exciting thing you'll do all year



ONLY three weeks and you forget all this General Election nonsense, eh?

Only three weeks and we can sit back and let our democratically-elected MPs run the country for another five years. Only another three weeks and your voice will no longer be heard...

In France 250 years ago philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote: "The English people believes itself to be free; it is gravely mistaken; it is free only during election of members of parliament; as soon as the members are elected, the people is enslaved."

Ok, JJ could go a little over the top and yes it might have lost something in translation ... but perhaps he has a point. Love 'em or loath 'em, New Labour who swept to victory in '97, have changed this country.

On the plus side, we have shorter waiting times for hospital operations; full-time workers are guaranteed 24 days paid holiday; Scots and Welsh have their own assemblies; there are 85,000 more nurses and 32,000 more doctors (and who knows how many more in pens-pushing admin staff). You get the idea, the former Blair wannabe MPs have done some good things.

On the flip side, Mr B Liar did take us into a war for reasons that we probably weren't too clear about. And there has been an explosion in made-up jobs in the public sector like nappy advisors for new mums (£25,000 a year, see Guardian jobs) and five-a-day co-ordinators (same salary, same jobs section) to tell us what to eat to stay healthy.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

safer more just society, one that respects and protects its citizens, especially the elderly.

To achieve these goals we need people in government with experience beyond politics.

As a little girl being brought up on a council estate by a single mum, I learned about the challenges facing those who are less well-off.

For our older and more vulnerable people, I have fought for their care and protection for the last 22 years as a legal aid lawyer.

As a business owner and employer I have faced many of the threats created by the caustic culture of rights, regulation and litigation.

If I am elected as your MP I will strive to achieve the change we need with conviction, drive and determination and will serve you with integrity, honesty and sincerity.

Helen Grant,
Conservative parliamentary candidate for
Maidstone and Weald, by email

MP Ann one of the old-school politicians

I'm sure many will miss MP Ann Widdecombe on her retirement (yourmaidstone 7/04).

She's a colourful character, who has championed many causes for her constituents.

She possibly could have gone on to greater things, but as William Hague and others who followed found to their cost, voters go for style over substance and prefer

perma-tanned snake oil salesmen, making promises they can't keep, running the country.

I was always amazed at how she could write books, write newspaper columns, appear on her own TV show, go on nationwide lecture tours and do all the other things she did, while carrying out her parliamentary duties.

What a woman!

I never understood though, how a professed committed Christian could be in favour of bringing back the death penalty.

Would she have given the lethal injection, or pulled the trap door lever?

Also, why did she vote to keep MPs' expenses secret, when the system was so obviously corrupt and totally alien to how her own voters would be expected to behave?

Maybe the admission she had managed to write two novels while we paid for her to travel first class could be a bit of a clue.

Sadly, old-style politicians such as Miss Widdecombe, are now being replaced by party ciphers, who vote as the Whips tell them, stifling all debate or individualism.

We have moved even further away from a democracy, with government by Cabinet or even just PM.

Phil Granger, West Malling
By email

Diary of a captive train passenger

Southeastern train passengers



LETTERS: Please send your letters to us at Yourmaidstone, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR



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are looking for the passenger ramp to get people across.

20.05: We're trying to be upbeat, but the mood in the rear three carriages is apparently rather 'ugly'.

We're all getting rather hungry and thirsty too.

20.10: Some more workmen are coming to dig us out.

20.15: Upline train passes. Anyone, know how to contact International Rescue?

20.20: Power's off altogether, we're in the dark and it's getting cold in here anyway.

20.30ish: Let there be light – three diggers have arrived. Er, with an arc light, a few torches, some large wire cutters and a couple of spades.

20.50: We're watching them dig, cut and a bit of chain-sawing (but only a bit).

They're looking up at the landslide – will more come down? Mud looks pretty sodden...

21.00: More digging – can train get past?

21.15: Upline train passes.

21.20: Power on again. We lurch, then stop, then move again. Crawl into Bearsted. Passengers from London etc detraining.

What about the rest of us? (We're waiting for the signalman to say – the signal's green anyway though)

21.25: Everybody off – on to waiting coaches. No sign, of course, of any refreshments; then clambering over the bridge.

I'm tired already ... Pile on to coaches. First one goes full, I'm on the second one with a few others. Train departs. Coach driver says the train's been sent empty to Ashford so the line must have been cleared earlier! (Coach driver says they've been mucked about as well)

22.00: Arrive Ashford Int'l: No staff to meet us.

We are left to fend for ourselves as they hide in their cubby-holes, for half an hour on freezing platforms for trains to Folkestone, Hastings and Canterbury.

23.00: Arrive home, five hours after leaving Maidstone East (cold, tired hungry, thirsty and 'rather angry').

Why was this train let through in the first place? Why were SE Trains relying on the driver alone, with a lot of passengers onboard, to assess the situation.

Why did an engineer, and later team, have to come from Paddock Wood to assess the situation?

Why couldn't they find the passenger transfer ramp?

Why were no refreshments offered at Bearsted? Why was the train allowed to go to Ashford, while we had to go by coach?

Why was no one at Ashford to assist with onward travel?

When will SE Trains be doing major remedial work at this point on the line to ensure that no further landslips occur?

The obvious answer to all of the above?

Oh it'll cost us money, it's not efficient or cost-effective et al, so you lot will have to make do with feeble excuses, unmeant apologies, loads of PR and spin etc, being cold,tired, hungry etc, while we laugh all the way to the bank.

Ray Duff,
Comment posted on
www.yourmaidstone.co.uk

School standards 'will be hit' by cuts

A CHILDREN'S services union has warned of a potential drop in achievement in Kent schools if "deep funding cuts" are not properly considered.

It follows an announcement in February by Kent County Council that some 260 jobs could be slashed from its department for children, families and education in a bid to save £8million.

At the time Cllr Sarah Hohler – cabinet member for the department – insisted frontline services would not be affected, but professional schools improvement staff now believe performance levels will be hit.

Children's services union Aspect, said the restructuring would mean cuts in services that offer professional support to schools.

Restructuring within the department would see seven per cent of jobs lost. In secondary schools improvement teams, however, there could be a 50 per cent reduction in staffing, with no current indication of redeployment in other areas, according to Aspect.

Union officials and school workers argued the plans were developed with little or no consultation with key stakeholders.

But Rosalind Turner, managing director for children, families and education at KCC, said: "We are not yet half way through the consultation and we are interested in any additional proposals to deliver the required efficiencies."

She added that despite the possible changes, a high degree of support for schools would be maintained.

"Our strategy is to reduce management and administration as much as possible, and to protect direct services to children, young people and families," she said.

Drugs, weapons and cigs all stopped at the border

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

BORDER control officers based across Kent helped seize more than £237 million worth of illegal drugs in just one year.

They also helped prevent 27,000 dangerous weapons from reaching the streets as well as 557 million smuggled cigarettes representing a loss in tax revenue of £109 million.

Launched on April 1, 2009, the UK Border Agency was formed when customs and immigration officers joined forces as one single organisation. It is based in Dover and is also represented at the French ports of Calais, Coquelles, Dunkirk and Boulogne.

Regional director Tony Smith said: "The public expects us to keep the UK border safe and secure at all times because drugs, illegal immigration and contraband damage communities and businesses. That's why we have a strong new force at the border with combined customs and immigration powers, which works 24 hours a day to stop illegal immigrants and smugglers."

During the past year more than a million freight vehicles have been searched at British border controls in northern France and Belgium, with 29,000 illegal attempts to cross the Channel thwarted.

Notable successes include the seizure of £3.7m of drugs from just one lorry – which was



STOPPED: Tobacco and an avocado stuffed with cocaine were seized by UK Border Agency officials at Dover

loaded with oil drums packed with heroin, amphetamine, ecstasy and cannabis – as well as the discovery of 5kg of cocaine hidden in a car bumper and 1.2 tonnes of hand-rolling tobacco concealed in a cargo of boilers.

The agency also carries out intelligence-led operations to catch illegal workers and other immigration offenders.

Where companies are found using illegal workers they face a fine of up to £10,000 per employee. Examples include the arrest of six onion farmers from Iraq and Palestine who

were caught working at a farm in north Kent, and a £30,000 fine for the Hands On Car Wash firm in Ashford, Tenterden and Folkestone that was found to be employing illegal immigrants.

Large companies have also been caught out as well, such as the Whitstable branch of Domino's Pizza that was fined £10,000 for giving work to an illegal Indian and Kosovan.

Mr Smith added: "We are dedicated to stopping drugs getting onto our streets, removing illegal migrants and locking up or deporting the most serious criminals."

"We will continue to crack down on foreign nationals who don't play by the rules, and the people and organisations behind them."

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A woman with long blonde hair is swimming gracefully underwater. She is wearing a vibrant red and green ruffled dress. Her hair is flowing behind her, and she is looking back over her shoulder. The background is a deep blue, suggesting an ocean or pool environment.

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DAY & NIGHT**Make a date for jazz**

TWO great jazz musicians will be performing at the RAFA Club in Chatham on Friday.

Tickets to see award-winning saxophonists Ray Gelato and Derek Nash and their quintet cost £10. The music starts at 8.30pm. For details call 01634 365352/362704 or 07544 312743 or visit www.coljazz.webs.com.

Rock 'n' roll with Ricky

STEP back in time and dance the night away with rock 'n' roll singer, Ricky Fontayne.

The 50s and 60s tribute act is at the UK Paper Leisure Club in Sittingbourne on Friday. For more information about the venue call 01795 426451.

Find out more about Fontayne by visiting www.rickyfontayne.com.

Talk on family history

HISTORIAN Dr Nick Barratt will explore how the media has helped to track down our ancestors on Tuesday.

The man behind BBC's Who Do You Think You Are will talk about the show and family history research in the digital age at Chatham Library at 7.30pm.

Admission costs £5/£4. To reserve call 01634 332714.

Mixed Nuts on stage

ENJOY a taste of Mixed Nuts when Alternate Shadows Theatre Group presents a comedy sketch show.

The home-grown performance of comic skits and characters can be seen at Chatham's Brook Theatre at 7.45pm tonight. Admission costs £6. To book tickets call 01634 338338 or visit www.whatsonmedway.co.uk.

Kids can fight pirates

CHILDREN can help battle the Sith Pirates in interactive theatre show, Robinson Crusoe: the Lost Jedi Knight.

Youngsters can get involved in the production from Spotlights Theatre Company at Kings Theatre in Chatham at 2pm on Thursday and Sunday. Tickets cost £5.50/£4.50 or £18 for families.

To book call 01634 829468.

Encounter spirit world

MEDIUM Shaun Dennis demonstrates his powers in Maidstone on Thursday.

The psychic is renowned for his accurate statements and aims to raise awareness of the spirit world. He can be seen at the Hazlitt Theatre at 8pm.

Tickets cost £15/£13. Book online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call the box office on 01622 758611.

Soul funk - and pizza

LIVE soul jazz music is on offer at Pizza Express in Maidstone with Leee John.

The original lead singer of soul funk group Imagination will be performing with his quartet on Friday, playing songs from his acclaimed album *Feel My Soul*.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15. Bookings can be made online at www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk.

Magic night with a comedy legend

JUS' LIKE THAT 

Wednesday, April 28

Central Theatre, Chatham.

SPEND an evening remembering a comedy legend with a fond tribute to Tommy Cooper.

Jus' Like That! – A Night Out With Tommy Cooper gives both established fans and younger audiences the chance to hear his best gags performed live once again, as Clive Mantle stars in this hilarious and fascinating show.

Even though Cooper died on stage 26 years ago, he is still widely regarded as one of the UK's most popular comedians of all time and continues to command great affection and respect.

A huge fan of Cooper, Mantle is delighted to be donning the famous fez and delivering the comedian's timeless one-liners.

He trained with magician Geoffrey Durham, also known as the Great Sorprendo, to master Cooper's deceptively clever tricks and perfect the shambolic act that endeared Cooper to so many people.

Written by John Fisher, who worked with Cooper for many years, the show not only celebrates his remarkable talent but also explores the darker side of Cooper's life. But the show is designed to celebrate the memory of a very human but very gifted performer, and fans of all ages will enjoy the uproariously funny production.

While serving during World War II, Cooper performed in a NAAFI entertainment party and hit on the idea of performing magic tricks with accompanying jokes. Although he went on to perfect a magic act that went wrong for comic effect, he was actually a very competent magician and a member of the Magic Circle.

He entered show business in the mid-1940s and took his act around variety theatres, including London's famous Windmill Theatre. Cooper had already noted that his failed tricks were even more popular with audiences than his successful ones, but he would continue to occasionally pull off a spectacular trick to surprise his fans.

After making his television debut in a BBC talent show in 1948, Cooper landed his own series and became one of the country's best-loved comedians.

However, his heavy drinking and smoking habits took a toll on his health and contributed to a decline in his television work.

Cooper's drinking also affected his personal life, leading to accusations of wife-beating and infidelity, and this show does shine a light into the darker corners of Cooper's life.

But the production also celebrates the remarkable talent and warmth of this iconic performer, who suffered a heart attack in front of a live television audience in 1984.

At first his collapse was assumed to be part of the act, but he had become seriously ill and died that evening.

Clive Mantle will be familiar to viewers from



his roles in Casualty, Holby City and The Vicar of Dibley. As a lifelong fan of Cooper, he will be fulfilling a cherished dream by stepping into the comic's shoes and bringing this unforgettable performer back to the stage.

During the rehearsal process, Mantle had the chance to try on Cooper's favourite fez, which was a truly magical moment for the actor.

Whether you are a long-term fan of the comedian or discovering Cooper's talent for

the first time, this hilarious and enlightening show should not be missed. It starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18/£16.50. To book, call the box office on 01634 338338 or visit the website at www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk.

Jus' Like That! – A Night Out With Tommy Cooper can also be seen at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells at 8.30pm on Monday. Tickets cost £18.50/£15.50. Book online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.



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THE CORPSE IN THE CRYPT

Friday, April 16, Rochester Cathedral

when a shocking event occurs. At first they do not see a monk come staggering into the chapel, gripped by his death throes. The only clue is the human bone clutched in his lifeless hand.

In the new murder mystery from Pyramid Puzzles, the dreadful death interrupts the calm atmosphere at the Benedictine Priory of St Andrew.

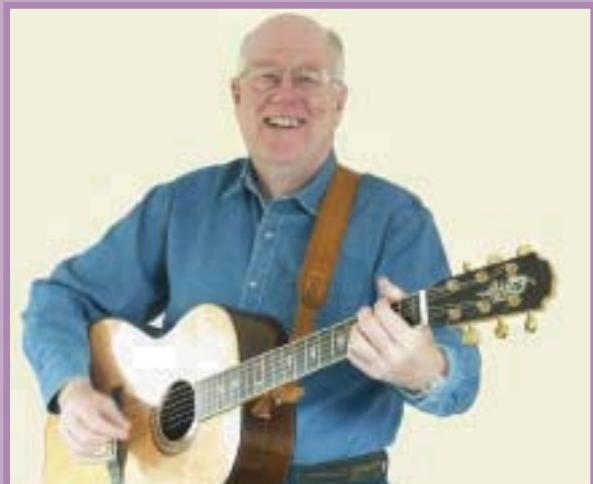
Set in the medieval period, this gripping story is played out in the beautiful setting of Rochester Cathedral by Alternate Shadows Theatre Group.

During Vespers, Brother Alwyn is reading from the Book of Hours to his fellow monks

When Barnabus, Sheriff of Rochester, asks his friend Brother Alwyn for help, they set out on an exciting search for the cold-blooded murderer.

The fund-raising performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £6, including free interval drinks. To book call 01634 810074.

For details email development@rochestercathedral.org.



HARVEY ANDREWS

Thursday, April 22, Brook Theatre, Chatham

ENTER the highly entertaining world of Harvey Andrews, a master of musical storytelling.

Artists such as Mary Hopkin and Christy Moore have covered his songs, while folk stars like Martin Carthy, Ralph McTell, Richard Thompson, Danny Thompson and Dave Pegg have played on his own recordings.

He has performed as far afield as Canada, the United States, Newfoundland and Ascension Island, winning International Artiste of the Year in the Canadian Porcupine Awards for Folk Music.

Andrews has appeared on

more than 50 television shows, including the Old Grey Whistle Test and Rhythm on Two, and has made his own TV contribution by writing and singing the theme songs for Golden Pennies and The Haunted School. He also sang the theme tune for the British film, Psychomania.

Andrews' lyrics were used in coursework for the national GCSE English language exam.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10 or £9 for mailing list members.

Book online at www.whatson-medway.co.uk or call the box office on 01634 338338.

Andrews has appeared on

THE COMEDY CLUB

Friday, April 16, Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham



THREE top comedians will be aiming to hit the target with their hilarious gags at The Comedy Club.

Gillingham Football Club hosts an evening of laughter at this opening show, with another due on August 13.

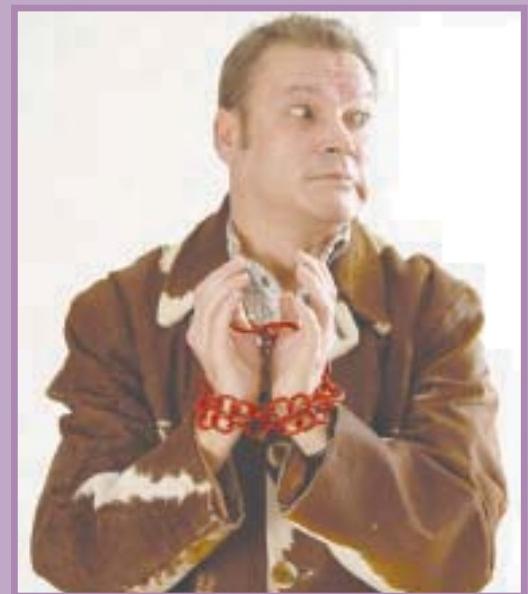
Audience members will have the chance to submit their own gags to the joke competition during the interval and could win big prizes.

Irish life coach Padraig Hyland reveals his unique take on life and acts as MC for the evening, welcoming fans and making sure the show goes smoothly. Renowned for his warmth, Hyland will be offering a few life lessons in his own amusing style.

Award-winning funnyman Gerry K aims to score a few comedy goals with his fresh, observational comedy, presented with energy and charisma.

Headline act Nick Wilty is known as the 'Globetrotting Comedian', due to the fact that he has performed on every continent except Antarctica. His accolades include Best International Act, awarded in San Francisco.

The over-18s show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15 for the comedy only, or £22 to include a basket meal. To book call 01634 300000 or visit www.haha-heehee.com.



HORRIBLE SCIENCE

Tuesday, April 20 to Saturday, April 24, Orchard Theatre, Dartford



BRACE yourself for a truly disgusting experience with the fun and educational Horrible Science.

By picking out all the most gruesome and stomach-churning aspects of the subject, Birmingham Stage Company takes the audience on a fascinating and grisly journey through the world of science.

Suitable for children aged six above, this show will captivate all the family as it asks such important questions as why do we produce 50,000 litres of spit in our lifetimes? Can you kill deadly diseases using just orange juice?

Guiding the audience through the Bathroom of Doom and Toothbrush of Terror is Billy Miller, a cheeky 10-year-old who ends up doing battle with the many dangers of Horrible Science World.

Join him as he discovers the fatal forces of gravity and magnetism and learns more about how microbes cause nasty diseases.

The show covers much of the Key Stage 2 science curriculum in a fun and exciting way that will enthral both science lovers and newcomers to the subject.

Tickets cost £14/£11 or £44 for families of four. To book call 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



KENT YOUTH CHOIRS

Saturday, April 17, St Matthew's Church, Wigmore



ENJOY the sound of sweet music from talented young singers when Kent Youth Choirs perform this weekend.

Some of the county's most promising young performers will demonstrate their uplifting talent at their annual concert on Saturday.

Kent County Junior Choir features children aged from 11 to 14, while the Kent County Junior Singers is made up of youngsters aged from eight to 13.

With their colourful T-shirts and enthusiastic love of performance, the Kent County Junior Singers are often

dubbed 'the Smarties' and are guaranteed to put a smile on the faces of any audience. They have travelled to Holland and Germany, along with performances in the Gillingham, Rochester and Medway festivals and an appearance at the Schools' Prom, held at London's Royal Albert Hall.

Kent County Junior Choir has also taken its talent abroad, performing in France and Belgium. They also made an appearance at the National Festival for Youth at the Royal Festival Hall.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £6/£4 on the door. To find out more about the choirs call Kent Music on 01622 691212 or visit www.kent-music.com.

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during which there will be the opportunity to buy tickets to win the new Mini First, the draw for which will take place at midnight. Visit the Silent Auction that will also include prestigious artwork and try your luck in the Platinum Raffle!

PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING:

- 7.00 pm Champagne and Canape Reception
- 7.30 pm Dinner is served
- Entertainment
- A short live auction
- Dancing to live band and disco
- The draw will take place at midnight to find the lucky winner of the Mini First car competition
- Dancing continues until 1 am

- Dress Code: Black Tie
- Carriages: 1.00 pm
- Tickets: £100.00 each (tables are for 10 guests and smaller numbers will be combined)

Be part of what promises to be a fabulous evening in a stunning setting including a champagne and canape reception, three course dinner prepared by Eastwell Manor's award winning Head Chef and his team and dancing to a live band and disco to raise money for a very worthy cause. Contact Sarah Taylor on 01795 845204 or email sarah.taylor@demelza.org.uk to reserve your table.



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Roxy print playsuit, price £13



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WOMEN seeking men

WAITING FOR YOU Oriental single mum, 25, easy-going, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890

ARE YOU THE MAN OF THE MATCH? Fun-to-be-with, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

THE ART OF THE MATTER 27-year-old female, 5ft8, medium-curvy build, NIS, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

STEP UP TO THE OCHÉ WITH ME! Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, mix! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury Box 446326

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly female to enjoy the finer things in life, with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 448345

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5ft4, size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, petite, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells Box 38734

SHREK'S APPEAL! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE Curvy blonde, 35, with green eyes, 5ft3, no ties, looking for an affectionate and caring non-smoking guy to put the sparkle back into my life. Ashford Box 849706

TERMS OF ENDEARMENT Mum of 2, 35, WLTM genuine, honest, kind, down to earth guy interested in working towards loving relationship. Must like children and live in Kent! Box 865131

EAT YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possibly some long term relationship. Box 453039

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring, I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 880164

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE Mum of three, 38, long wavy hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, sees kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

MAGIC IN MARGATE LOVING Loving female, 36, 5ft4, blonde hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

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FAMILY LIFE Fun to be with woman, 39, I love life, drinks in, walks, family life etc. Looking for a similar man in the Canterbury area. Box 467392

FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbound based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38y old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. Wttn a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

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DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684

HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT... Shy female, 40, 5ft9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 448113

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy blonde, 39y old, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 443466

START THE CHATTER... BE A FLIRT... TEXT LADS OR LADIES

BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER Hi there, I'm female, 34, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out etc and WLTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curly single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking blonde from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, curly single mum, 34, kind, genuine, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Faversham. Box 467195

SMART MOVE Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

QUALITY TIME 55 year old lady, 45, 5ft6, blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, quite fit, enjoys the outdoors, lots of walking, politics, family time with the right man. Box 848381

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5ft3, slim build, wears glasses, likes live music, the arts, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible romance. Box 449914

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

DREAMS OF YOU Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/M male for long term relationship. Box 448566

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a dog. Box 448602

GETTING TO KNOW YOU Slim blonde, 51, 5ft3, very caring, active, loves diy and gardening, wttn a man with similar interests to get to know better. Sheerness. Box 467122

WHY WAIT? Single curly mum of three, 46, dark hair and blue eyes, GSOH, loves animals, socialising, seeking a similar and romantic man. Hastings. Box 467807

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seek man to love forever. Box 449524

POSSIBLE LTR African lady, full figured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5ft5, attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre. WLTM decent white male, Gillingham. Box 466617

NOTHING VENTURED... Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 462362

JUST IMAGINE Petite, Brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 448236

NOTHING TO LOSE Short curly lady, 47, 5ft4, animal lover with no ties, very sociable, non-smoker, loves the countryside, seeking easygoing companion and soulmate. Box 468120

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, 5ft4, 5ft5, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. WLTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each other's lives. Box 462724

BRIGHTEN UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft1, walks, cosy nights, pubs etc. I'm hoping to meet someone for friendship, and then we'll see. Folkestone. Box 466963

WHAT'S LIFE WITHOUT LOVE? Very bubbly and outgoing, positive Gillingham lady, 61, lived abroad and considered intelligent, but very lonely! How about a drink? Box 466274

HERE & NOW Outgoing lady, 50, 5ft1, 5ft2, honest, kind and caring, seeking a male friend, 35-45, for a long-term relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 467937

POSSIBLE LTR African lady, 46, 5ft4, animal lover, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh for evening out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

IT COULD BE LOVE Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 446001

YOUNG AT HEART Young, attractive, fun-loving female, 46, 5ft4, blonde-brown hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to have fun with. Box 448113

LOVE AND LAUGHTER AND HAPPY TIMES Petite woman, 53, with blonde/brown hair and blue eyes, 53+, enjoy socialising, walking, cinema and generally having fun with a tall, honest man. Gillingham. Box 889610

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 443466

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL... Young-looking, hard-working 53y old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

NEW TO THIS Attractive single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals. WLTM loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pub's, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129

Text KOS to 81188

Charges: 35p each message you send. Forwarded messages and requested matches: 75p incl VAT.

Over 18s only. To cancel send STOP to 81188. For help call FREE 0800 015 0385 g8wave, London N7 9AH. ©2010 g8wave

HAPPY DAYS! Young female, 35, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft3, slim, loves socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 443466

LOVE & TRUST Honest, caring male, 46, 5ft1, 5ft2, brown hair/blue eyes, likes walking, beach walks, eats out, restaurants, looking for honest, caring, reliable male. Box 446251

WITTY Active, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things, seeks honesty, warmth, trusting female. Box 408508

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU Carpenter with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mothers are welcome. Box 449891

IN LOVE WITH ME Single male, 46, 5ft1, 5ft2, brown hair/blue eyes, likes walking, pub's, cinema, country walks, eats out, night life, enjoys driving, and being in and out. Hythe. Box 449226

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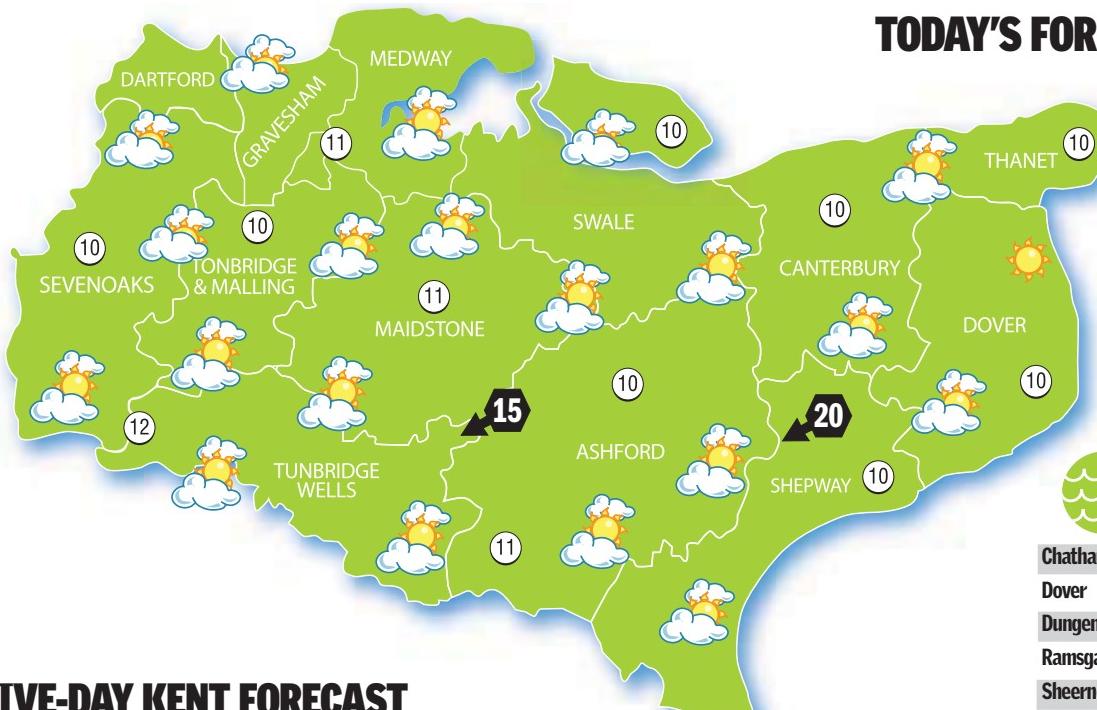
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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	13°C	Madrid	19°C
Athens	18°C	New York	22°C
Barcelona	13°C	Paris	10°C
Beijing	8°C	Rome	14°C
Bombay	35°C	Sydney	21°C
Cape Town	33°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	12°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	28°C	Warsaw	16°C
Las Palmas	24°C	Wellington	18°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon						
Ashford	13°C	12°C	13°C	12°C	14°C	Dover	10°C	11°C	11°C	11°C	12°C
Canterbury	11°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	12°C	Faversham	11°C	10°C	10°C	11°C	12°C
Chatham	11°C	10°C	10°C	11°C	12°C	Folkestone	10°C	11°C	11°C	12°C	12°C
Dartford	14°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Gillingham	11°C	10°C	10°C	11°C	12°C

KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	3:23pm 5.9m	Sunday	3:58pm 5.8m
Dover	Saturday	1:25pm 6.4m	Sunday	2:02pm 6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:36pm 7.6m	Sunday	2:12pm 7.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:55pm 4.9m	Sunday	2:32pm 4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:13pm 5.7m	Sunday	3:48pm 5.6m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:11pm 5.1m	Sunday	3:46pm 5.0m

	SUNRISE	6.02am	SUNSET	7.50pm
	MOONRISE	5.28am	MOONSET	8.22pm

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WIN a DVD of comedy football movie The Shouting Men

THE Shouting Men brings the magic of the FA Cup to the small screen with the uproarious misadventures of a group of misfit Gillingham FC supporters during a cross-country "away day" weekend to watch their beloved team play in the quarter finals of the FA Cup against Newcastle United.

The Shouting Men stars Matt Daniel-Baker and Warren Llambias, Dudley Sutton and Craig Fairbrass, with cameo appearances come from John Barnes and Peter Beardsley.

The Gillingham fans are brought together by football in the way that only football can do and the movie perfectly captures the hilarious banter of footie fans. If you're fed up with football films always being about football violence this is one for you. Full of genuine laugh-out-loud moments, the film is a welcome and very funny look at the lighter side of the beautiful game – a real comedy for real football fans.



The Shouting Men (cert. 15) is out on DVD this week but you can win a copy of the DVD in our great competition.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name,

address, and daytime telephone number to The Shooting Men Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is April 30, 2010.

Question: Fans of which football team describe themselves as The Shouting Men?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kent-news.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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More teenage angst for Page as she takes up roller derby

■ BY DAMON SMITH

YOUTH springs eternal for Ellen Page.

Oscar-nominated for her role as a pregnant 16-year-old in *Juno*, the 23-year-old Canadian actress has forged a career playing dysfunctional and pithy teenagers.

There are more growing pains in *Whip It!*, the auspicious directorial debut of Drew Barrymore based on the novel *Derby Girl* by Shauna Cross.

Set in the cut-throat world of women's roller derby, this unabashedly entertaining tale of female empowerment puts a traditional coming-of-age story on four wheels and celebrates the sisterly solidarity within a low-ranked team as its feisty members body-check their way up the league.

Novelist Cross lovingly adapts her book for the screen and she retains all of the humour and the pathos, keeping the tone relatively light to hold the interest of teenage audiences who will appreciate the heroine's struggle for independence and the hip soundtrack laden with Kaiser Chiefs, MGMT, The Breeders, Peaches and The Raveonettes.

Hormonal teenager Bliss Cavendar (Page) lives in sleepy Bodeen, Texas, where she is at the mercy of her beauty pageant-obsessed mom, Brooke (Marcia Gay Harden).

Ungainly and unfeminine, Bliss stands little chance of winning the Miss Blue Bonnet Pageant, which Brooke is convinced will be her daughter's ticket to fame and fortune.

While shopping with Brooke and sister Shania, Bliss sees a flyer for roller derby trials and she secretly attends the tryout in Austin for league underdogs, the Hurl Scouts.

Maggie Mayhem and Smashley Simpson (played by Drew Barrymore) take Bliss under their wing and with their encouragement, the plucky teen discovers her calling as her alter ego, Babe Ruthless.

The introduction of the ballsy new member



to the Hurl Scouts catalyses a dramatic change in fortunes, setting up the inevitable championship showdown with Iron Maven and her brutal posse.

Meanwhile, Bliss drifts apart from best friend Pash and embarks on a romance with musician Oliver.

Whip It! follows in the skating tracks of countless other portraits of teen angst, but Barrymore invests her first feature with energy and a tasteful, underwater sex scene.

Page imbues Bliss with spunk and vulnerability and the scenes with Harden's pushy

mother runs the gamut of laughter and tears.

There are tender scenes too between Bliss and her father Earl, who confides: "I like smart girls. That's why I married your mother... and knocked her up."

The cast appear to do many of their own stunts on the roller derby rink. Every time they get knocked down, we cheer them to get back up again.



WHIP IT! 
Certificate 12A



NEW TEAM: Matt Smith as the Doctor with Karen Gillan as assistant Amy Pond



YOUR TV REVIEW DR WHO: BBC 1, 6.35pm, Saturday

OVER Easter we got our first real taste of the latest incarnation of one of TV's most loved characters, and it was an encouraging beginning.

Matt Smith has got off to a great start as the new Doctor.

His portrayal of the character is closer in essence to Tom Baker than David Tennant, adding a little more humour, mystery and quirkiness to the mix than his predecessor.

Tennant was right to leave when he did – his tenure had run out of steam and he looked more than ready to move on.

The man's a fine actor, but lacked the oddness that makes a truly great Doctor – although I know millions would disagree.

Russell T Davies, the main mover behind the total regeneration of the character and show has also left, although he must take much of the

credit for reviving a genuine TV gem.

It was time for both to let some new ideas come through, however.

If I had seen another episode where the plot was resolved by someone pushing a button or the use of a sonic screwdriver, then I may have been lost as a fan forever.

Episode one in the new series, *The Eleventh Hour*, was the strongest I've seen in a long time, and new assistant Amy Pond (Karen Gillan) looks the perfect companion for Smith's scattier, more irreverent Time Lord.

She's a bit more strait-laced than Billie Piper's Rose Tyler, and it's good to see a lot of thought has gone into the assistant's role again.

It's often that character, and their

chemistry with the title character, that makes or breaks the series.

One backward step that seems to have been taken is with the special effects, which have certainly not been as good so far.

But this is Doctor Who, and while we may not be going back to the era of monsters made out of bubblewrap, the focus must be on the story.

The Daleks and Cybermen will return but the show has been at its strongest when new foes, such as the Judoon and the Slitheen, were introduced, so let's hope for more original baddies with an appetite for destruction.

The onus now is on Steven Moffat, who in recent years has written many of the best episodes, to take the character somewhere new in space and time.

It's an exciting time to be a geek.

MOTORS NEWS



Green sportster shows promise ahead of rivals

IT could be that despite the green credentials of petrol-electric hybrids, their best deployment might be the sporting sector.

The instant pulling power of the electric motors can give the performance edge needed for the adrenalin rush would-be buyers crave.

Honda is first to the market with a green sportster, the CR-Z, due in June and priced from a not unreasonable £17,000. It also promises to be an exciting drive, particularly as the first hybrid on sale in the UK with a manual gearbox.



KITT beats the 'Gene Genie' to TV favourite

TWO TV motoring icons and their TV series are back onscreen – Gene Hunt's Audi Quattro (Ashes to Ashes) and KITT (Knight Rider).

Both also appear in a Kwik-Fit poll to find the public's top 10 TV cars.

KITT was top, followed by: 2) Insp Morse's Jaguar MkII, 3) Ferrari Testarossa from Miami Vice, 4) Magnum PI's Ferrari 308, 5) Batmobile, 6) Gene Hunt's Quattro (pictured), 7) Lady Penelope's Rolls, 8) Dukes of Hazzard's General Lee, 9) The Saint's Volvo and 10) A-Team's GMC van.



Jaguar just purrs along during economic gloom

JAGUAR is making light of the sluggish UK economy – it doubled sales of its sleek XF executive car in March against March 2009.

Sales of all Jaguars are also more than one per cent up for the month, not bad when it was effectively a two-model brand – the junior X-Type model was axed in late 2009, and the all-new XJ is not on sale until May. The surge has been helped by the improved diesel power of the XF (£29,900) complementing the car's sports saloon lines.



MUCH BETTER BY DESIGN: Citroën improved their C3 supermini this year by giving it a classier look and a larger car feel plus an eye-catching Zenith panoramic front screen

Citroën C3 targeting a more discerning small car market

CITROËN launched a vastly improved C3 supermini model earlier this year.

Despite a cuddly, egg-shaped design evoking the brand's classic 2CV, I thought the previous car pretty average.

However, friendly imagery and occasionally bonkers discounting helped blind motoring Francophiles to the car's cramped cabin, sloppy driving characteristics and poor build.

But Citroën must have seen that would-be downsizers and generally more discerning consumers would not be so short-sighted this time.

So the new car (from £10,790) looks and feels much classier and able to deliver a larger car feel for those who really are trading a family hatchback or something bigger in favour of this little five-door supermini.

We tested the car via Wilmoths Citroën at Maidstone where general sales manager Kelvin Clayton was quick to defend the old car yet promote its successor:

"You've got to remember that the original C3 came out seven years ago and things have moved fast in the industry and at Citroën, but it has been a good seller for us and will continue to do well."

ROAD TEST

CITROËN C3

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



ue to offer value as a used buy. The new car takes us to a new level and we expect to do well with it."

The test car was an upmarket 1.4 Exclusive with a lively 95bhp VTi 16v petrol engine (£14,090), with interior chroming, leather trimming and auto climate and cruise controls.

But it also had the eye-catching Zenith panoramic front screen – the new C3's trademark. This is standard on all but the VT entry model and comes with a neat pull-down interior 'roof' and sun visors.

It's a stylish luxury touch to the C3 range and defines its more upmarket stance this time.

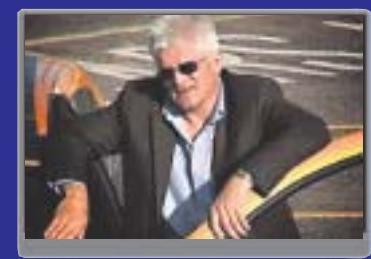
There is little disappointment on the move either, with a better balance of ride comfort and handling than before and the 1.4 engine is well-suited to the car, though there are 1.1 and 1.6-litre petrol alternatives plus 1.4 and 1.6 diesels.

My only criticism on the test was a slightly sloppy gearshift, which may irritate keen drivers. But there is so much more to like about this smarter and swisher C3.

It should be cheap to run too, with a range of frugal low emission engines plus a miserly ultra-eco Airdream version from £14,490.

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BY STEVE LOADER @
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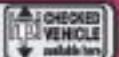


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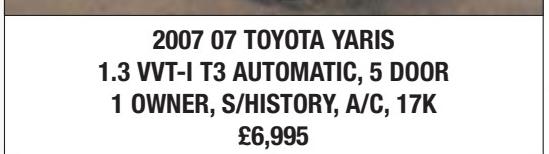
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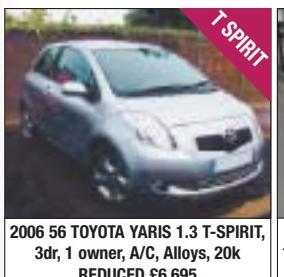
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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 16.6 (17.0) – 61.4 (4.6), extra-urban 32.8 (8.6) – 88.3 (3.2), combined 24.2 (11.7) – 76.3 (3.7), CO₂ Emissions 274 – 98 g/km.

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Pomphreys											
Always something extra											
AGILA	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2009	09	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Atlanta blue	6,350	8,995				
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta Blue	Del mileage	10,495				
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Sugar white	Del mileage	10,495				
ASTRA	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2002	02*	Astra Club	1.6	5	Blue	85,880	2,995				
2005	55	Astra Sri Sports hatch	1.6	3	Ultra blue	30,260	6,995				
2006	06	Astra Sri Sports hatch	1.6	3	Black sapphire	33,050	7,695				
2006+	56	Astra Sri Sports hatch	1.6	3	Panacotta	21,950	7,995				
2006	56	Astra Design Twin top	1.6	2	Black sapphire	40,200	9,695				
2007	07	Astra Sri Sports hatch X pk	1.6 TBO	3	Flame red	29,810	10,495				
2007	57	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Arden blue	25,000	13,995				
2007	57	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	17,325	9,995				
2008	08	Astra Design CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Star silver	22,200	10,495				
2008	08	Astra Sri Sports hatch	1.6	3	Silver lightening	24,300	9,995				
2008	58	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	3	Star silver	10,100	12,995				
2008	58	Astra Sri Ex Pack	1.6	3	Black sapphire	5,960	11,995				
2009	59	Astra Sri Sports hatch	1.6	3	Ultra blue	5,800	12,995				
2009	59	Astra Life A/c	1.6	5	Metro blue	Del mileage	11,995				
2009	59	Astra Sri Sports hatch	1.6	3	Star silver	Del mileage	12,995				
2009	59	Astra Sports Twin top	1.8	2	Air blue	3,320	17,495				
CORSA	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2001	Y*	Corsa Comfort	1.2	3	Blue	57,525	2,695				
2006	06*	Corsa Sri +	1.2	3	Flame red	57,600	4,995				
2007	07	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	28,450	11,495				
2007	07	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Tea green	17,611	7,195				
2008	57	Corsa Design Auto	1.4	3	Star silver	34,500	7,995				
2008	08	Corsa Design	1.2	5	Ultra blue	25,275	8,495				
2008	08	Corsa Breeze E/T	1.2	3	Flame red	10,125	7,995				
2009	09	Corsa Active	1.0	5	Star silver	6,270	8,995				
2009	59	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	6,325	10,995				
INSIGNIA & SIGNUM	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2009	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995				
2009	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Ex CDTi	1.9D	5	Technical grey	5,300	16,995				
2004	04*	Signum Elegance Auto	2.2	5	Star silver	51,500	4,495				
MERIVA	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2006	56	Meriva Life A/C	1.4	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,495				
TIGRA	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2007	07	Tigra Exclusive Red	1.4	2	Metro blue	32,500	8,995				
ZAFIRA	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2006	56	Zafira Active	1.8	5	Metro blue	38,050	7,995				
2008	08	Zafira Breeze+ CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Star silver	16,200	12,495				
VECTRA	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2006	56	Vectra Life CDTi A/c	1.9D	5	Black	27,780	6,995				
2008	08	Vectra Design	1.8	4	Panacotta	25,050	8,995				
2008	08	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi + pack	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	41,700	8,995				
2008	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	8,995				
DUKESON	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2002	02*	Corsa Club E/T	1.2	5	Blue	37,000	3,195				
2006	56	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Flame red	37,000	7,995				
2007	07	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Metro blue	19,500	7,495				
2007	07	Astra Design Auto Estate	1.8	5	Silver lightening	20,000	7,995				
2008	58	Astra Sri	1.6	5	Black sapphire	11,000	9,495				
2009	09	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Star silver	10,000	14,995				
2009	59	Insignia Elite CDTi Nav	2.0	5	White	7,000	7,995				
2009	59	Insignia Sri Nav	2.0	4	Black sapphire	8,000	17,995				
2009	59	Insignia Sri ECO Exclusive	2.0	5	Sovereign silver	8,000	22,995				
2005	05*	Zafira Design CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Star silver	53,000	6,995				
2007	07	Zafira Energy	1.6	5	Silver lightening	19,000	8,495				
2009	59	Zafira Design CDTi	1.9	5	Panacotta	5,000	17,495				
2009	58	Vectra Exclusive CDTi	1.9D	5	Silver	19,000	9,995				
USED VANS	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2006	56	Combo PAS	1.3CDTi	5	White	36,150	E4,995+VAT				
2009	59	Combo CDTi PAS	1.3D	5	White	13,960	E7,295+VAT				
PRE-REG VANS	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2009	59	Vivaro SWB (115)	2.0D	5	White	Delivery	E11,995+VAT				
2009	59	Astravan	1.7D	5	White	Delivery	E9,495+VAT				
OTHERS	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2004	04*	Peugeot 206 S	1.1	5	Blue	46,225	3,995				
2006	56*	Proton Savi	1.1	5	Metallic red	28,000	3,995				
OTHERS DUE SOON	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£			
2004	54*	Ford Focus Lx	1.6	5	Star silver	48,000	5,495				
2004*	04*	Ford CMAX Zetec	1.8	5	Silver	64,000	4,995				

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09 59 NEW CORSA 1-2 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR GREEN 6000 MILES.....	£10995
09 59 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 2000 MILES.....	£8495
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09 59 MEGANE 1-6 CLASSIC ESTATE AUTO PAS STEPPING ROCK 6000 MILES.....	£9495
09 59 ASTRA 1-9 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE BLACK 4000 MILES.....	£10995
09 59 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C DEEP RED 3000 MILES.....	£11995
09 59 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR MET BLUE 6000 MILES.....	£12495
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08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ICE BLUE 300 MILES.....	£8995
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07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES.....	£9495

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07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES.....	£7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES.....	£7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 LIFE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£7995
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02 51 CORSA 1-4 COMFORT AUTO 5DOOR 5DR SILVER 54000 MILES.....	£3695

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08 08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5DR AUTO PAS BLUE ICE 8000 MILES.....	£7995
08 08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5DR AUTO PAS ICE 13000 MILES.....	£7995

CITROENS

08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£9995
06 06 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO DIABLO 16000 MILES.....	£8495

MAZDA

07 57 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 8000 MILES.....	£10995
07 56 MAZDA 2-1 4-CAPELA AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR MET BLUE 17000 MILES.....	£5995
06 56 2-1 4-CAPELA AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR MET BLUE 20000 MILES.....	£6495
06 56 2-1 4-CAPELA AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR MET BLUE 40000 MILES.....	£6495
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07 07 SUZUKI SZ4 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR MET BLACK 4000 MILES.....	£8495
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KIA

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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500 1.2 Pop mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions: Urban 44.1 (6.4) Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) Combined 53.4 (5.1). CO2 119 g/km.

AUDI

A4, 2.0TDI S Line, gk07ohd, pearl lava grey, 39000 miles, £14795.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

A5 COUPE SPORT, 2007, white, 25000 miles, £27000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A5, COUPE SPORT, 2007, white, 25000 miles, £27000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A6, S Line, 2006, grey metallic, 54554 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A6, S Line, 2006, grey metallic, 54554 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TT, V6 COUPE, 2007, silver with grey leather, 17000 miles, £19390, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, V6 COUPE, 2007, silver with grey leather, 17000 miles, £19390, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 0.8 5DR AUTOMATIC, 2007, silver, 5400 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 0.8, 2007, teal blue, 25325 miles, £4500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TACUMA, SX, 25225189, black, 27600 miles, £3995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BMW

AZURE, Azure CONV AUTO SAT NAV, 25225188, silverlake blue, 19373 miles, £19000, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 116i SE 5dr, black, 23302 miles, £11997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d ES Touring, mht55yl, grey, 5100 miles, £13995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 316i SE, wp51gvf, aluminium silver, 13200 miles, £3499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 520d SE E60, lr56dpk, red, 0 miles, £11997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, Lt 5dr, fh09ckd, black, 2000 miles, £8495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

GRAND C4 PICASSO, 2008, grey, 3808 miles, £14080, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRAND C4 PICASSO, 2007, silver, 24626 miles, £11080, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PICASSO, 1.6 VTX, 2007, silver, 14023 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RELAY, 3 33 L3 H, 2009, white, 5000 miles, £14500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, mw07vxt, red, 13164 miles, £7250, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, hy56zys, silver, 14459 miles, £7450, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DOBLON, Active, 2005, grey, 19053 miles, £5500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, grey metallic, 38078 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, Dynamic, 2005, blue, 34000 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, blue, 50 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, 1.9, 2008, black, 7667 miles, £19500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, 1.9, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £19700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.2 ESGT / NAVIPK / 18IN WHEELS, 2009, nighthawk black, 7000 miles, £21500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.2EXEC SATNAV/HFT, 2008, nighthawk black, 16000 miles, £15700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.2 DTEC EX, 2009, polished metal, 4000 miles, £23000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.6SE, 2005, blue, 29000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8SEAUTO, 2008, galaxy grey, 9711 miles, £8200, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.2 ES, 2007, silver, 29773 miles, £17000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FR-V, Sport, 2006, black, 56406 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4 i-DSI SE -7, 2007, green, 17849 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 SE Auto, 7396079, silver, 41700 miles, £8995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, V6 SE, 2004, zircon, 43001 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XJ, 4.2, 2008, red, 50 miles, £50200, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

XX, V8 Auto, 2007, silver, 13524 miles, £34000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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DEFENDER, 90 TDI Hard Top, r973ljf, white, 96000 miles, £7495, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DISCOVERY, TD5 ES Auto 7 Seats, 2003, silver metallic, 51412 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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PROPERTY NEWS

Preventing terrible loss getting worse

Steve Osborne, *The Mortgage Man*, shares his knowledge with you in this fortnightly column



AS THE size of the average mortgage increases, so too does the need to protect your partner and your family against being left with a huge debt should the worst happen.

The death of the main breadwinner is bad enough without the added problem of where to find a four-figure mortgage payment each month. There are a number of ways in which you can protect yourself and your home, and I am being asked for advice from more and more clients who want to make sure they won't have to worry about losing their home as well as a loved one.

Term assurance is probably the simplest type of protection and often the cheapest. It simply pays out if the insured person dies and can either be on a level or a decreasing basis depending on the reason for the cover.

Critical illness cover is similar way but has the added benefit of paying out if the policy holder contracts one of a specified list of critical illnesses. These vary between companies, so make sure you compare not just the cost but the cover provided.

Family income benefit is a term assurance policy, with or without critical illness cover, that differs by paying out a monthly income for a set period rather than a lump sum.

This is often cheaper than a lump sum policy and it does away with the worry of having to invest a large sum of money at a time when the surviving family has more important concerns.

Permanent health insurance pays out a monthly income if you are unable to work due to accident or sickness. This is a long-term plan designed to continue to your retirement date or until you return to work and should not be confused with the short term accident, sickness and unemployment plans that have had so much bad press.

Make sure you get good independent advice and remember that if a life assurance policy is set up incorrectly you could end up with a big inheritance tax bill rather than the money going where you intended it to.

Steve Osborne, director, *The Mortgage Company*, Ashford



Ombudsman's demand for lettings protection

Landlords and tenants would benefit from closure of legislative loopholes, says report

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Property Ombudsman is demanding that whichever party wins General Election urgently legislates to improve protection for both landlords and tenants who employ letting agents.

The call has been echoed by many across the property field who say action needs to be taken as soon as possible.

In his annual report, Ombudsman Christopher Hamer urges swift action because of the increasing activity in the lettings market during the downturn.

According to his report, the fact that letting agents were not covered by the provisions of the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act is an "alarming inconsistency".

Mr Hamer also recommends that landlords and tenants only use agents who are members of a recognised trade association or any agent who is a member of the Property Ombudsman

scheme. LetAssured UK is one company active in this area.

"LetAssured UK has been specifically set up by landlords to protect themselves and other like-minded landlords from the unscrupulous activities of some letting agents," said managing director David Plaister.

"Landlords from across the UK have been joining with us in a move away from the traditional agents who have been rubbing their hands and watching the fees roll in."

The proportion of the Ombudsman's workload related to lettings disputes rose from 28 per cent to 49 per cent of his workload last year. LetAssured UK said it guarantees landlords and tenants peace of mind in knowing that they are dealing with a firm which meets defined standards of customer service and has the necessary insurance to protect their clients' money, plus a customer complaints procedure offering independent redress.

"LetAssured underpins the entire administrative procedure of renting property on behalf of the landlord, and he is safe in the knowledge there will be no hidden costs," said Mr Plaister.



FLOOD OF COMPLAINTS: Whoever wins the election will need to address inconsistencies in lettings legislation

Springing into action can increase chance of a sale

CONNELLS offices in Kent are enjoying one of their busiest periods since the start of the year and say the upward trend looks set to continue.

Staff say more properties are coming on the market and business is looking good.

"Our branches have had a busy few weeks with more properties coming on the market as people are encouraged by lower interest rates and the start of spring."

"Demand is continuing to outstrip supply and because of the lack of stock there are more people chasing the same property, which is driving prices up in some areas," said Connells regional managing director, Kevin Peel.

"Houses continue to sell as long as vendors are realistic in their expectations and their estate agent is prepared to work hard on

their behalf, using every opportunity to bring a property to the attention of as many buyers as possible."

Mr Peel said buyers could help by following a few simple tips: "First impressions count, so make sure your property has 'kerb appeal'. Paint the front door, tidy the garden and put up hanging baskets," he said.

"Make sure the home is clean, tidy and de-cluttered. Buyers are trying to picture themselves in your home, so get rid of junk and minimise personal possessions such as photos. Throw out anything that has been broken for a year or more. If you haven't mended it by now, chances are you never will."

Spring flowers in bloom make gardens particularly attractive, and spring cleaning adds to homes looking good, both inside and out, he added.

Association upset by new legislation

LANDLORDS' "worst fears" have been realised with new legislation covering houses in multiple occupation, it has been claimed by one of the bodies representing them.

The laws will see landlords required to gain planning permission if they purchase a property designed to be rented to three or more unrelated people. Alan Ward, chairman of the Residential Landlords' Association, criticised the legislation on two grounds.

"First, it is totally impractical," he said. "And second, it is social engineering, because planning law has never been about who can live where – it's about the use of the building."

Mr Ward said landlords were unlikely to wait for any administrative delays in planning permission being granted.

His comments come after PropertyEarth.net research indicated three-bedroom houses made up 57 per cent of all property searches by investors. Two-bedroom homes accounted for 21 per cent, and four-bedrooms 15 per cent.

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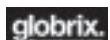
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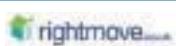
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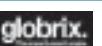
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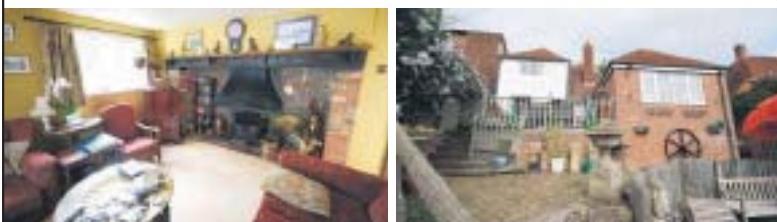
Madeleine Rose



Maidstone

£179,950

A well presented Victorian house in central Maidstone with two double bedrooms, two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, large bathroom, twin chamber cellar with scope to convert. Cottage garden. No chain.
Web Ref: 757



Sutton Valence

£425,000

Charming detached Grade II listed period cottage with three bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, inglenook fire and beams, galley kitchen, utility room, large study/bedroom four and shower room. Pretty South facing terraced garden with Wealden views. Central village location.
Web Ref: 733



Rural Kingswood

£995 pcm

A recently refurbished detached bungalow in rural location with living/dining room, modern fitted kitchen, master bedroom en suite, two further double bedrooms and bathroom. Generous gardens with ample off road parking. Available now.
Web Ref: 729



Hunton

£950 pcm

Spacious three bedroom detached bungalow semi rural village location with fitted modern kitchen, conservatory and large living room. Large master bedroom en suite, two double bedrooms and family bathroom. Good size garden backing onto open fields. Small garage. Available now.
Web Ref: 753

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Station Road, Aylesford - £795
3 bedroom semi detached house, double glazing, off road parking and garage.

Let By



Scotney Garden, Maidstone - £695
2 bedroom river front apartment, Double glazing, parking and en-suite.

Let By



Iconica, Maidstone - £725
2 bedroom modern apartment, town centre location, double glazing and parking.

Let By



The Sovereigns, Barming - £695
Two bedroom apartment , Storage heating, DG, Parking, close to Maidstone hospital.

Let By



Ordnance Street, Chatham - £650
2 bedroom refurbished terrace, gas central heating, town centre location.

Let By



Ingram Close, Larkfield - £750
2 bedroom river front apartment, Double glazing and parking.

Let By



Oakleigh Close, Walderslade £995
4 bedroom detached, garage, double glazing and en-suite to main bedroom.

Let By



Roland House, Maidstone £625
2 bedroom apartment, double glazing and parking.

Let By



Lower Stone Street, Maidstone £600
2 bedroom apartment, gas central heating, parking and fully refurbished.

Let By



Esplanade Rochester £695
2 bedroom modern apartment, gas central heating, d.g., river views from the balcony.

Let By



Albert Road, Chatham £525
Two bedroom bungalow, new double glazing, gas central heating.

Let By



Hedley Street, Maidstone - £650
Two bedroom refurbished terrace, gas central heating, garden and town centre location.

Let By



Linden Road, Coxheath - £395
Ground floor studio apartment, electric heating, parking.

Let By



St Andrews Gardens, Maidstone £695
Two bedroom apartment, gas central heating, communal garden and balcony.

Let By



Alexander Street, Maidstone £450
Studio flat, electric heating, parking.

Let By



Rochester Street, Chatham - £650
2 bedroom refurbished terrace, gas central heating, town centre location.

Let By



Melville Road, Maidstone - £650
Two bedroom terrace, gas central heating, garden.

Let By



St Anne Court, Maidstone - £600
Two bedroom terrace house, rear garden, lovely quiet retirement development.

Let By



Hayle Street, Maidstone - £395
Studio flat, gas central heating, close to town centre.

Let By



Sheal Crescent, Maidstone - £600
3 bedroom end off terrace house, gas central heating and garden.

Let By



Gregory Close, Rainham - £650
2 bedroom apartment, E7 heating and parking.

Let By



Premier Parade, Aylesford - £550
2 bedroom flat, E7 heating and semi rural location.

Let By



Swift House, Maidstone - £650
2 bedroom 1st floor apartment, juliette balcony and part furnished.

Let By



Oswald Drive, Strood - £750
3 bedroom town house, double glazing and gas central heating.

Let By



Elizabeth House, Maidstone - £450
1st floor studio apartment, E7 heating and parking.

Let By



Arundel Square - £800
Two bedroom executive apartment, decked area and gas central heating.

Let By



Broadway, Gillingham - £625
2 bedroom terrace house, gas central heating, patio garden and garage.

Let By



Roseholm, Maidstone - £625
2 bedroom flat, gas central heating and modern kitchen.



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Position - Skilled Flat Technician

ATA level 2 or above
Flat experience/training would be advantageous
Please telephone 01795 423815
For further details.

it will never be just another job

mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society.

Support Worker x 2
£16,607-£17,494

Ref: 701/E
Staplehurst, Kent

Robert is a 33 year old man with autism. He lives on his own in his own home but with the help of a dedicated team of staff to support him. He likes to keep himself active and has been known to run, swim, cycle, trampoline and roller blade in the past. Robert's friends describe him as fun loving and outgoing. We're looking to find two people to join our team & help him to keep building on a life that reflects his personality and the things he likes best.

As a team member it is important that you work well with others and contribute ideas in order to help Robert make sense of the world around him & maintain the structure he needs for day to day living. **mcch** will provide you with the training to equip you with the skills you will need. It will help to be confident and a good communicator, with the ability to stay cool and calm. Being a driver is essential as Rob has his own car.

How to apply....

Closing date 26th April 2010. For further information or to apply online visit www.mcch.co.uk or email us for an application form at jobs@mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.



Invicta Motors are a rapidly expanding Motor dealer in Kent who currently represent the Ford, Honda and Mazda franchises across five locations. Due to a recent acquisition we are currently recruiting for the following positions within our Ashford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells branches.

Sales Executives Ashford (Ford),

Maidstone (Honda) Tunbridge Wells (Honda)

The successful candidate must have previous car sales experience, be ambitious, self-motivated and commercially minded with an aptitude to developing the business.

Vehicle Technicians at Maidstone

/Tunbridge Wells (Full Time)

We are looking for qualified vehicle technicians to join our busy Honda and Mazda dealerships. Top rates of pay offered with excellent bonus

Service receptionist at Maidstone for Honda and Mazda

We are looking for someone with excellent people and admin skills to work on our service reception. There is a £20K basic salary with the potential to earn significant additional bonus.

Service Admin/Telephone Support at Tunbridge Wells (part time)

Hours will be 1.00-6.00 pm with an hourly rate of £7.50ph
The successful candidate will be responsible for sending service/MOT reminders, making outgoing telephone calls to secure bookings and post service follow up calls.

If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Please send your CV to Mollie Cooper by e-mail mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com Or post to Mollie Cooper, Invicta Motors 59-61 Sturry Road Canterbury, CT 1DR
Or telephone for an application form on 01227 762 777
Please state which branch you are applying for.

Motorcycle Sales Person



The successful candidate will have a proven sales track record. Must be able to demonstrate a full knowledge of the sales process, both pre and post transaction. Experience with motorcycles is not necessary as training will be given. This is a full time position, 5 days a week including Saturday. Must hold a full motorcycle licence. Applicants must apply in writing enclosing a CV to Nick Young Mayfield Road Garage, Cross-in-Hand, Heathfield, East Sussex,

Email nick@jwg.co.uk
or telephone 0844 811 9570

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Manager

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Bridal Sales Consultant

A dedicated sales professional with retail experience to work either part or full time.

Send a cv to:
Go Bridal, 50 Grosvenor Road
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AS
or email maria@pantilesbride.com

Exciting Roles - for those who care

At Scott Care Ltd, we offer a range of care & support services for people who live at home & need help to remain independent. We hold company inductions on a monthly basis & our next induction starts on 4th May 2010.

Now we're looking for the following to join our team:

Area Manager - Full Time, Salary & Company Vehicle. Location: Kent

You will be the nominated individual within the company, responsible for setting up new branches of our service. You will liaise with service users, care managers, contracts officers from the local authority & CQC. You will initially take on the Service Managers job description for each new branch yourself & recruit & train the new team. Candidate would ideally possess NVQ RMA Level 4 qualification or managerial background in care.

Care Workers - Full Time (mornings, evenings & alternate weekends) & Part Time (evenings or weekends) Location: Medway, Swale, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks

From personal care to helping out with shopping, you'll be a vital social link for those who rarely go out – or simply can't. You'll need a car & mobile phone, but we'll provide a uniform & pay for mileage. Experience isn't essential, as we offer full training.

Team Leaders - Full Time. Salary. Location: Medway

With a team of care workers to lead, you'll supervise, manage & monitor their progress. That means handling care assessments, reviews, spot checks & more. You will be required to take part in 'on call' responsibilities. This role could be perfect for a care worker looking to take the next step, experience is essential.



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mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society.

Community Support Worker 12 month contract Ref: 705/E
£16,040-£16,896 pro rata PT 20 hrs Ashford, Canterbury & surrounding villages

We are looking for an enthusiastic, self motivated person to join our team working with people who have a learning disability or mental ill health. Applicants must be flexible, reliable and able to promote and support individual's health, wellbeing and independence. Experience in Learning Disabilities or Mental Health would be advantageous. If you are looking for a job that can be both challenging and rewarding apply now. A full driving licence and access to a car is required for this post.

How to apply....

Closing date 26th April 2010. For further information or to apply online visit www.mcch.co.uk or email us for an application form at jobs@mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.



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If you have a strong interest in interior design and know you can achieve the above then we hope you want to join our team.

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Please write enclosing C.V. to: Natasha Lampard
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Saint George's
Church of England School
Humanities College

Founded 1580

Meadow Road, Gravesend
Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082
Fax: 01474 561356

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

HLTA English & Humanities

KS6 Pts 17-20 £18,471 - £20,262
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37 hours per week / Term Time Only + 5 days (39 weeks)

We are seeking a HLTA to support learning activities for English and Humanities classes and, within an agreed system of supervision, supervise whole classes during the short-term absence of teachers. Relevant qualifications would be beneficial.

The postholder must have experience of working with children of relevant age, must possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and have the ability to work as a member of a team and on their own initiative.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, celebrating diversity and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwal@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 16 April 2010

CARDY PA/Secretary

An opportunity has arisen for a motivated PA/Secretary to join our busy Management Team at our Canterbury, Head Office.

Initially it is anticipated the position will be for a minimum period of 6 months, but may well lead to a full time appointment.

Candidates should have a good working knowledge of Microsoft Word/Excel and Outlook and be a proficient touch typist, together with the ability to work on your own initiative at Senior Management level.

To apply please submit your CV and covering letter to:

Maxine Brown
Cardy Construction Limited
Maynard Road, The Wincheap Estate
Canterbury, Kent CT1 3RH
Alternatively email to mbrown@cardygroup.co.uk

Applications to be received by 16th April 2010.

WAIT STAFF

wanted for fine dining restaurant in Ramsgate.

Experience essential.

Must be able to work weekends and evenings.

Please send CV to
info@ageandsons.co.uk

Assistant Manager

Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person.

Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

EA Electrical

Electrical contractor requires

Fire Alarm Test Engineer

preferably with electrical background to undertake

FA / EML & door entry testing in and around Folkestone. Electrical Manager/ess required to oversee planned and reactive maintenance contract. 17th edition electricians required for works in occupied properties.

For more information please email to
Matthew Hardwick at:
matthew@ea-witham.co.uk

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MidKent College

MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009.

Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus.

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering

Salary: c£46k

Manufacturing and Engineering have benefited from a substantial investment in new equipment and we are now looking to expand training opportunities within this area. In addition to providing effective management of the faculty, the successful candidate will be expected to lead on the development of STEM initiatives including a new Motor Engineering section.

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies

Salary: c£46k

Comprising the A Level, Access and Higher Education curriculum areas, this Faculty is based at both our new Medway Campus and at the nearby University of Kent which accommodates most of the Access and HE provision. The successful candidate will have a strong track record of leading within these curriculum areas and in improving outcomes for students.

Closing date: Thursday 29 April 2010

Interview date: Friday 6 May 2010

Benefits Include:

- Benenden Healthcare • Pension • Generous Annual Leave • Flexible working

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Beauty/Holistic Therapy

Ref: P0164

Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 pro rata
(dependant on qualifications and experience)

18.5 Hours per week
Medway

We are looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Child Care

Ref: P0323

Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)

Medway

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Sociology

Ref: P0322

Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)

Medway/Maidstone

The College is looking for an excellent candidate to participate in the delivery of A' level, YUP and Access to HE courses. The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching / training in an FE environment and will have up to date and sound working knowledge of level 3 study. The successful candidate will have obtained a degree in Sociology and hold, or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Plumbing and Heating

Ref: P0691

Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)

Medway

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to deliver Plumbing, Heating and Gas programmes across a range of qualifications including the new Diplomas. The successful candidate will show a sound commitment to improving classroom delivery, classroom management and Health and Safety. Good IT Skills and the ability to work within a team are essential. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Construction

Ref: P0198

Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)

Medway

The primary role of the post holder will be to teach on and participate in the development of construction related programmes across the Faculty. The appointee will contribute to the delivery of Entry/First/National/Higher National, Professional courses and short courses for industry as appropriate. The ability to teach in one of the main Construction /Civil Engineering disciplines would be advantageous. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Technician in Hair and Beauty

Ref: P0277

Salary: £14,588 - £17,000 per annum

Medway

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Closing date: Wednesday 21st April 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

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KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd ("the media owner") takes no responsibility in respect of any omission or the content of our media.

3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

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5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All posts and comments made will be subject to the advertiser's terms and conditions in relation to the use of our platform via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.

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10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given as the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.

11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.

12. Our standard terms and conditions apply in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.

13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.

14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content to recover, in full, outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to cancel the annual membership if the advertiser fails to pay bills.

15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.

16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media standard effective date advertising from 20th June 2009 will be recalculated and applied accordingly in line with KOS Media standard media cancellation (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be recalculated and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the cancellation. Any advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.

17. Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.

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CRICKET

Picture ADV KERRY

CENTURION: Rob Key hit form in pre-season

Kent eager to get off to a good start

KENT make a return to the LV County Championship Division One tomorrow as they begin away to Nottinghamshire.

Rob Key's side made an immediate return to the top flight after winning the Division Two title last summer and will be eager to get off to a good start at Trent Bridge.

Kent's main concern ahead of the season-opener is over their bowling attack. Amjad Khan and Robbie Joseph were both left out of the side's warm-up game against Loughborough UCCE, which finished on Monday, to give the pair every chance of being fit in time for tomorrow. Dewald Nel is also believed to have pulled out with a back injury.

Several players did make the most of some valuable playing time. Rob Key (140), Geraint Jones (112) and Martin van Jaarsveld (106) all gained valuable time out in the middle as Kent declared on 504 for 7 in their first innings at Canterbury, while Joe Denly also hit a century in the second innings.

With doubts over Khan and Joseph, head coach Paul Farbrace will have been pleased to see Phil Edwards and Warren Lee bowl tidily. They took two wickets each as Loughborough were bowled out for 259, but Simon Cook was the standout performer, taking 3 for 24.

The dependable 33-year-old seamer extended his contract last week until the end of the 2011 season.

Farbrace said: "Securing the services of an experienced player like Simon is great news for the club. He is a quality bowler and is fast becoming Kent's mister reliable. We're all very pleased he has extended his stay."

The squad's bowling unit has been further bolstered with the signing of teenage seamer Ashley Shaw. The 18-year-old signed a two-year deal after impressing in a trial at St Lawrence last week.



Picture MARTIN WATSON

NEW DAWN: Relegated Aylesford Bulls (in red) are looking to strengthen their pack before the start of next season in London 2 South East after struggling to compete

Ignominious defeat is fitting end to Bulls' season from hell

AYLESFORD Bulls are preparing for next season after their nightmare campaign in London 1 South came to an end with a heavy 73-0 defeat at Sidcup.

The Bulls, who were promoted by default last season due to a reshuffle in the leagues following the demise of Halifax, have struggled in the division. They finished the campaign bottom and recorded just one victory all season - against rivals Maidstone.

With relegation confirmed last month, the defeat at the hands of promotion-chasing Sidcup concluded a season the club are glad to see the back of and they already looking to next year.

RUGBY

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Vice-chairman Neil Wiltshire said: "It has been just one thing after another this season. I'm glad it's over."

Strengthen

"I don't think we were quite prepared for the step up and we lost five or six players during pre-season, which didn't help. Injuries have also not helped. I don't think we have been able to play the same XV for two games in a row."

After several years playing in London 2

South East, the Bulls should be more than able to cope with the standard of rugby next season.

With relegation being confirmed so early, Wiltshire admitted the club have identified where they need to strengthen for next season.

He said: "Our back-line has been a pretty good standard and capable of playing well in the division. We need to strengthen elsewhere though. I think we probably need to bring in four or five players in the pack. Hopefully we can have far more luck with the amount of injuries we pick up next season."

The Bulls will face neighbours Maidstone next season following their relegation from London 1 South. Maidstone completed their final game of the season on Saturday, with a 34-10 defeat against Old Elthamians.



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Stones reap no reward despite renewed effort

FOOTBALL

■ BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

AFC Hornchurch 1

Wall 70



Maidstone United 0



MAIDSTONE United's winless run was extended to ten games following a narrow defeat at AFC Hornchurch on Saturday which leaves them entrenched in the Ryman Premier's bottom four.

After an embarrassing 5-0 defeat against Hastings United on Bank Holiday Monday, Stones boss Peter Nott asked his players for a battling response. He received the performance he was after, but it wasn't good enough to avoid another defeat which left United second bottom in the division and three points from safety.

AFC Hornchurch enjoyed the best of the opening exchanges and could have opened the scoring early on through Tambeson Eyoung and Mervin Abraham. The pair fired wide of Andy Walker's goal when well placed.

Maidstone then forced a save from Hornchurch goalkeeper Darren Behcet, when Danny Hockton's 20-yard free-kick was par-



WINLESS STREAK: Danny Hockton came close to finding the net on another disappointing day for the Stones

ried behind for a corner. From the resultant corner Adrian Stone's header was held by Behcet.

On the half-hour Maidstone were lucky not to fall behind when Jermaine Darlington conceded possession deep in the Hornchurch half. Eyoung picked up the ball and managed to beat Ant Bodle, Roland Edge and James Peacock, but his shot flew narrowly wide of the post.

On the stroke of half-time Maidstone had a great chance to take the lead through Hockton. Darlington whipped in a dangerous

Maidstone United starting XI



Subs used: Fisher (Paul 79), C Stone (Gonnella 89)

cross into the area, but the striker's header was well-saved by Behcet.

The second-half was a scrappy affair, although the visitors did have a good chance when another Hockton free-kick drew a save from Behcet.

With 20 minutes of the game remaining, Hornchurch scored what turned out to be the winning goal. A long goal-kick from Behcet bounced over Edge and Ross Wall had the simple task of slotting past Walker.

Maidstone pushed forward in search of an equaliser, but the closest they came to a goal was when Peacock's header from a Gonnella corner went wide on 83 minutes.

Stones boss Nott was pleased with the commitment shown from his players, but was left stunned by how the game got away from his side.

He said: "It was a much better performance compared to the one against Hastings. The fight was back and the commitment was there, but it is still a mystery how we didn't come away from the game with at least a point."

FOOTBALL



ENCOURAGE: Stone's Peter Nott has to lift his squad

Battle to avoid the drop is Nott a task for faint-hearted

INSTILLING belief into his beleaguered squad is going to be Peter Nott's toughest task in his bid to steer Maidstone United out of the relegation zone.

Maidstone dropped to second bottom in the Ryman Premier League following Saturday's 1-0 defeat at AFC Hornchurch and remain three points adrift of safety.

The Stones have gone ten games without a win and are desperate for points to lift them out of the drop zone.

Nott, who isn't used to being involved in relegation scraps in his managerial career, admitted his players were devastated on Saturday and are lacking in confidence.

He said: "After all my ranting at them after the Hastings game, I told them to keep their chins up. They deserved to get something from the game. The biggest task I have now is to instill belief in the players, they are down due to the run we are on."

"The belief has gone a bit. When you go a goal behind the players become jittery."

"We saw it on Saturday and even when Danny (Hockton) had his chance he seemed to hesitate, when before he would have normally buried it."

The former Maidstone reserves manager is convinced his squad are good enough to stay in the division and said he would take any kind of win to lift the confidence of his players.

He said: "I've told them they don't become bad players overnight and they are more than capable of getting us out of the relegation zone. I really do believe that if we can get a win it would solve the problem."

"I would take any win at the moment. It's the same with a lot of clubs in the situation we are in."

Maidstone were involved in a crucial six-pointer against bottom side Waltham Abbey on Tuesday. Log on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk for a full report.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
C Dartford	36	25	4	7	+48	79
2 Kingstonian	40	20	6	14	+4	66
3 Sutton United	38	19	8	11	+17	65
4 Boreham Wood	39	18	7	14	+7	61
5 Hastings United	39	17	8	14	+11	59
6 Tonbridge Angels	37	17	7	13	+6	58
7 Aveye	36	17	6	13	+15	57
8 AFC Hornchurch	38	15	11	12	+2	56
9 Wealdstone	36	14	13	9	0	55
10 Horsham	38	15	7	16	+1	52
11 Tooting & Mitcham	40	14	10	16	-4	52
12 Canvey Island	39	13	10	16	-3	49
13 Cray Wanderers	38	14	7	17	-13	49
14 Billericay Town	38	12	12	14	+2	48
15 Harrow Borough	37	12	12	13	+1	48
16 Hendon	36	14	6	16	-1	48
17 Carshalton Athletic	38	10	13	15	-9	43
18 Ashford Town (Mx)	38	11	10	17	-11	43
19 Margate	40	10	12	18	-22	42
20 Bognor Regis Town	37	9	14	14	-11	41
21 Maidstone United	37	10	9	18	-20	39
22 Waltham Abbey	37	10	8	19	-20	38

FIXTURES (Thursday): Ryman League Premier Division:

Maidstone United v Bognor Regis Town; (**Saturday:**) Ryman League Premier Division: **Maidstone United** v Ashford Town (Middx)



TOP TEN: Tom Weeden wants to threaten the front-runners at Thruxton this weekend after a good display at Brands Hatch

Weeden eyes top-ten finish

SUPERBIKES

ASPIRING superbike rider Tom Weeden heads to Hampshire's Thruxton circuit this weekend hoping to build on a solid result earned at Brands Hatch earlier this month.

The British 125 Championship rider finished 12th in the opening round of the season at his home circuit and is eager to break into the top ten this weekend.

The 15-year-old Maidstone Grammar School racer was held up by two accidents in the race at Brands Hatch, but was relatively pleased to come through unscathed and cross the finish line in 12th.

However, this weekend he intends to threaten the front runners.

Weeden said: "I've come away from Brands Hatch feeling that I've salvaged something from nothing. I just can't wait for Thruxton, where I'm aiming for a top ten finish."

Former British Superbike rider Scott

Smart now races in the British Superstock Championship and finished 12th at Brands Hatch in the opening round of the series.

Elsewhere, road racer Steve Mercer will travel to Scarborough to take part in the famous Oliver's Mount race meeting this Sunday. The Ian Watson Spring Cup races will be the 28-year-old's second visit to the notorious road course and he believes a win is a strong possibility.

Mercer said: "We used the Brands Hatch superbike meeting two weeks ago as a test and it went really well. I'm hoping we can go to Oliver's Mount and win this year. Road racing is what I'm focusing on this year, but I may do some more British Superbike races later in the year."

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Mark Stimson gives his thoughts on Gills' crucial clash against Brighton last night

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